On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Saturday, August 29, 2015



A couple looks out at a rough sea as Tropical Storm Erika passes through the area in Guayama, Puerto Rico, Friday, Aug. 28, 2015. Tropical Storm Erika began to lose steam Friday as it skirted along the southern coast of the Dominican Republic, but it left behind a trail of destruction that included at least a dozen people killed on the small eastern Caribbean island of Dominica, authorities said.

Tropical Storm Erika Heads North; Loses Steam

EZEQUIEL LOPEZ. **CARLISLE BAPTISTE Associated Press** minican Republic (AP) skirted along the southern

Republic, but it left behind toppled trees and power a trail of destruction that lines in the Dominican Re-SANTO DOMINGO, Do- included at least a dozen public. The U.S. National people killed on the small Hurricane Center in Mi-Tropical Storm Erika began eastern Caribbean island ami said the system was to lose steam Friday as it of Dominica, authorities said.

expected to move north regain some strength off

coast of the Dominican Heavy winds from the storm iola where, the high moun- in Florida should still keep tains would weaken it to a tropical depression on Saturday and possibly cause it to dissipate entirely.

> There's a chance it could across the island of Hispan- northern Cuba and people

an eye on it and brace for heavy rain, said John Cagialosi, a hurricane specialist at the center.

Continued on Page 3







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George W. Bush visits disaster zone, 10 years after Katrina

JEFF AMY Associated Press NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Former President George W. Bush enjoyed sympathetic audiences in New Orleans and Mississippi on Friday as he returned to the region where Hurricane Katrina sank his popularity 10 years

CAIN BURDEAU

Bush avoided parts of New Orleans that have yet to recover from the devastating storm, such as the Lower 9th Ward, where President Barack Obama mingled with hundreds of residents the day before. Bush did not tour the federally managed levees whose failures flooded 80 percent of the

Instead, he visited a school rebuilt with support from former first lady Laura Bush's foundation, then flew to Gulfport, Mississippi, honoring police and firefighters who saved lives after Katrina's towering storm surge swamped the coast.

"The 10th anniversary is a good time to honor courage and resolve," Bush said in Gulfport. "It's also a good time to remember we live in a compassionate nation."

Bush took no questions at



Former President George W. Bush poses for photos with students at Warren Easton Charter High School in New Orleans, Friday, Aug. 28, 2015. Bush is in town to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, which is Saturday. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

either event, and made no mention of his administration's lackluster initial response to Katrina, which historians consider a low point for his presidency.

In New Orleans, he focused instead on promoting charter schools.

"Isn't it amazing? The storm nearly destroyed New Orleans and yet, now, New Orleans is the beacon for school reform," Bush said at the city's oldest public school, which was badly

flooded and almost abandoned before it reopened a year later as Warren Easton Charter High School. The comeback from Katrina has been uneven. While Gulf Mississippi's Coast recovered all its population and then some, Bush and his team have been so deeply resented in New Orleans that Carnival goers displayed them in effigy at annual Mardi Gras parades.

For days after the storm,

bodies decomposed in the streets and thousands of people begged to be rescued from their rooftops in New Orleans. In Mississippi, relief came so slowly that Biloxi's Sun Herald newspaper published a frontpage editorial, entitled "Help Us Now."

The storm set off a "confluence of blunders," and Bush's approval ratings never recovered, said Douglas Brinkley, a presidential historian at Rice

University who wrote "The Great Deluge," a detailed account of the first days after Katrina.

Bush didn't help his image by initially flying over the flooded city in Air Force One without touching down, then saying "Heckuva job, Brownie" to praise his ill-prepared Federal **Emergency Management** Agency director, Michael Brown, who resigned shortly thereafter.

Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant said Bush isn't to blame for the disaster that ultimately killed more than 1,830 people. "I think he certainly did a tremendous amount of good. It was just a tremendous storm. No one was prepared," Bryant said.

Bush's administration eventually spent \$140 billion on the recovery. On Friday, he praised former Gov. Haley Barbour, former U.S. Sen. Trent Lott and current U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran, for making sure much of it landed in Mississippi.

In New Orleans, most city schools had been foundering before Katrina, suffering from pervasive corruption, broken buildings and failing grades. Only 56 percent of the students graduated high school on time.

Pentagon: IS hacker killed in US strike also was recruiter

ROBERT BURNS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Islamic State group hacker killed in a U.S. airstrike in the West to conduct "lone wolf" terrorist attacks, and his death eliminates a "significant threat" to the U.S., a military official said Friday.

Air Force Col. Patrick Ryder, spokesman for Central Command, told re-

porters at the Pentagon that the hacker, British citizen Junaid Hussain, also was responsible for the recent release of personally Syria this week had been identifying information on recruiting sympathizers in about 1,300 U.S. military and government employ-

> Ryder apparently was referring to the posting online about two weeks ago of certain personal details of U.S. service members and government employees by a group calling itself

the Islamic State hacking division. The group urged attacks on the individuals listed.

Asked about the incident at a Pentagon news conference Aug. 12, Gen. Ray Odierno, who was the Army chief of staff at the time, said he doubted that it amounted to a cyberattack.

"But I take it seriously, because it is clear what they are trying to do, and so it is important for us to make

sure that all our force understands what they are trying to do, even though I believe they've not been successful, what they're claiming," Odierno said.

Ryder said that beyond the significance of that incident, Hussain was seen by the U.S. military as a key IS operative.

"We have taken a significant threat off the battlefield," Ryder said, speaking by phone from Central Command headquarters in Florida. "He was involved in actively recruiting ISIL sympathizers in the West to carry out lone wolf-style attacks," he said, "... and specifically sought to direct violence against U.S. service members and government employees."

Ryder said Hussain was killed Monday in an airstrike in Ragga, the city the Islamic State group considers its capital. Ryder said Hussain was the only person killed in the airstrike.



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Tropical Storm Erika Heads North; Loses Steam

Continued from front

"This is a potentially heavy rain event for a large part of the state," he said.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott declared a state of emergency for the entire state, which could begin seeing the effects of the system late Sunday and early Monday and officials urged residents to prepare by filling vehicle gas tanks, stockpiling food and water, and determining whether they live in an evacuation zone. Erika's heavy rains set off floods and mudslides in Dominica that are now blamed for at least a dozen deaths, the government said. At least two dozen people remained missing and authorities warned the death toll could rise.

"There are additional bodies recovered but it is an ongoing operation," Police Chief Daniel Carbon said, declining to provide specifics. "It will take us a couple of days to recover as many bodies as we can. So the count will increase."

Erika is a particularly wet storm, and was expected to dump up to 8 inches (20 centimeters) of rain across the drought-stricken region. Given how weak the storm is and how dry Puerto Rico and parts of Florida have been, "it could be a net benefit, this thing," said MIT meteorology professor Kerry Emanuel.

The center of Erika was located about 95 miles (155 kilometers) west-southwest of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and was moving west at about 21 mph (33 kph), the Hurricane Center said. The storm's maximum sustained winds were near 50 mph (85 kph).

Erika drenched the popular tourist areas of Punta

Cana, Samana and Puerto Plata, as well as the capital of Santo Domingo.

The storm previously slid to the south of Puerto Rico, knocking out power to more than 200,000 people and causing more than \$5 million in damage to agriculture but causing no major damage or injuries.

Dominica, meanwhile, was struggling in the aftermath. Assistant Police Superintendent Claude Weekes said authorities still haven't been able to access many areas in the mountainous island because of impassable roads and bridges. "The aftermath is loads of damage," he said. "It really has been devastating." Dominica Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit urged people throughout the country to help clear streets strewn with mud and toppled trees. Skerrit said they were airlifting injured people to the hospital in Roseau.

An elderly blind man and two children were killed when a mudslide engulfed their home in the southeast of Dominica. Another man was found dead in the capital following a mudslide at his home.

People on the island told of narrowly escaping being engulfed by water as Erika downed trees and power lines while unleashing heavy floods that swept cars down streets and ripped scaffolding off some buildings.

"I was preparing to go to work when all of a sudden I heard this loud noise and saw the place flooded with water," said Shanie James, a 30-year-old mother who works at a bakery. "We had to run for survival."

Mudslides destroyed dozens of homes across Dominica, including that of 46-year-old security guard



Strong winds and waves batter the coast as Tropical Storm Erika approaches Santo Domingo, in the Dominican Republic, Friday, August 28, 2015. Tropical Storm Erika began to lose steam Friday over the Dominican Republic, but it left behind a trail of destruction that included several people killed on the small eastern Caribbean island of Dominica, authorities said.

(AP Photo/Tatiana Fernandez)

Peter Julian, who had that my house that I have was not ready for me ... I joined friends after leaving work.

"When I returned, I saw

lived in for over 20 years was gone," he said. "I am blessed to be alive. God

have lost everything and now have to start all over again."







Former prep school student convicted of sex charges

LYNNE TUOHY **Associated Press** CONCORD, New Hamp**shire (AP)** — A graduate of an exclusive New England prep school was cleared of felony rape but convicted of misdemeanor sex offenses Friday against a 15-year-old girl in a case that exposed a campus tradition in which the oldest students competed to see how many younger students they could have sex with.

Nineteen-year-old Owen Labrie was accused of forcing himself on the girl in a dark and noisy mechanical room at St. Paul's School two days before he graduated in 2014.

He wept upon hearing the verdict.

Labrie, who was bound for Harvard, was acquitted of the most serious charges against him — three counts of felony rape, each punishable by 10 to 20 years in prison — but was found guilty of three



Attorney J.W. Carney puts his arm around Owen Labrie, as he weeps in court after his verdict is read at Merrimack County Superior Court on Friday, Aug. 28, 2015 in Concord, N.H. Labrie was cleared of felony rape but convicted of misdemeanor sex offenses Friday against a 15-year-old girl in a case that exposed a campus tradition in which the oldest students competed to see how many younger students they could have sex with. Each count carries up to a year behind bars. Labrie could get as much as 11 years in prison at sentencing Oct. 29. He will also have to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life. (Geoff Forester/The Concord Monitor via AP, Pool)

counts of misdemeanor offenses.

sexual assault and other Each count carries up to rie could get as much as

a year behind bars. Lab-

11 years in prison at sentencing Oct. 29. He will also have to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life. The 159-year-old boarding school has long been a training ground for politicians, Nobel laureates, corporate executives and other members of the country's elite. Alumni include Secretary of State John Kerry. Students pay \$53,810 a year in tuition, room and board. Labrie, an aspiring minister, testified that he stopped short of intercourse because he suddenly decided "it wouldn't have been a good choice for me." In his testimony, Labrie acknowledged bragging to friends that he had intercourse with the girl, but he said that was a lie told to impress them. He also admitted deleting 119 Facebook messages, including one in which he boasted that he "pulled every trick in the book" to have sex with her.





Before nation's top Democrats, Clinton sends Biden a message

KEN THOMAS LISA LERER **Associated Press** MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton's 2016

presidential campaign is sending a message to Vice President Joe Biden about his potential presidential campaign: This won't be easy.

Clinton and her team speak warmly of Biden in public, but they have taken steps to make clear how they've taken control of the party's establishment in hopes of discouraging the vice president from entering the race.

The latest came Friday in the most public of settings: the Democratic National Committee summer meetings. In a speech to the party's most committed activists, Clinton cast herself as its standardbearer and vowed to win the presidential race and

rebuild the party from the ground up.

"We are building something that will last long after next November," Clinton told party officials gathered in a Minneapolis ballroom. "Other candidates may be fighting for a particular ideology, but I'm fighting for you and your families."

The speech came after her team rolled out a string of high-profile endorsements in early voting states and scheduled an onslaught of fundraisers across the country in the effort to ice a Biden bid before he even gets started.

Behind the scenes, they're pressuring donors and delegates to pledge their loyalty to Clinton. Her team sent a slate of top aides to the meeting this weekend armed with pledge cards asking party delegates to commit to Clinton.



Democratic presidential candidate, Hillary Rodham Clinton, addresses the summer meeting of the Democratic National Committee, Friday, Aug. 28, 2015, in Minneapolis.

(AP Photo/Jim Mone)

Donors who have publicly expressed support for a Biden run have later been contacted by the Clinton team, according to fundraisers and Democratic strateaists who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the private conversations. Even Clinton herself has made a few calls, they said, to express her disappointment in the defector.

Clinton said the over-arching strategy was based on the lessons she learned from her last run, attributing her 2008 primary loss to a failure to capture enough backing from the party's important super delegates — the party and elected officials who are empowered to select the presidential nominee at the Democratic national convention, regardless of what happens in the 2016 primaries.

"We are working really hard to lock in as many supporters as possible," Clinton told reporters on Friday. "This is really about how you put the numbers together to secure the nomination."

Clinton's campaign has taken steps in South Carolina, where Biden has deep ties, to showcase her clout. She recently picked up the endorsements of two former governors, Jim Hodges and Dick Riley, the latter who served as education secretary during Bill Clinton's administration.

Obama expects better US-Israel ties after Iran deal in place

Associated Press WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama on Friday compared tensions between the U.S. and Israel over the Iranian nuclear deal to a family feud and said he expects quick im-

provements in ties between

the longtime allies once the accord is implemented.

JULIE PACE

The president's comments came as momentum for the nuclear accord grew on Capitol Hill, where lawmakers will vote next month on a resolution to disapprove of the deal. Democratic Sen. Tom Carper became the 30th senator to publicly back the agreement, saying Friday that it was a good deal for America and

"Like all families, sometimes there are going to be disagreements," Obama said

for allies like Israel.

in a webcast with Jewish Americans. "And sometimes people get angrier about disagreements in families than with folks that aren't family."

If Senate Democrats can amass 41 votes in favor of the deal, they could block passage of the disapproval resolution. Obama has vowed to veto the resolution if it passes, and Democrats could hold off Republican efforts to override his veto if they get 34 votes — just four more than they have now.

The looming congressional confrontation has sparked a summer of intense debate between supporters and opponents of the nuclear accord. The deliberations have also divided Jewish Americans, with leaders of many organizations expressing concern about long-term damage to the community.

The president encouraged skeptics of the agreement "overcome the emotions" that have infused the debate and evaluate the accord based on facts.

"I would suggest that in terms of the tone of this

debate everybody keep in mind that we're all pro-lsrael," he said. "We have to make sure that we don't impugn people's motives."







Survivor recounts on-air TV shooting from hospital bed

DAVID DISHNEAU JOHN RABY Associated Press ROANOKE, Virginia (AP)

— The woman who survived the on-air shooting that killed two TV journalists says she never saw the gunman walk up because the camera's bright light blinded her.

Vicki Gardner was answering questions on live TV when the gunfire erupted. She was wounded as she fell to the ground after hearing the first gunshots, her husband said Friday.

The gunman, Vester Flanagan, ambushed WDBJ-TV cameraman Adam Ward and reporter Alison Parker during the interview Wednesday at a visitor center. Gardner is executive director of a resort area's chamber of commerce.

The first four shots were aimed at Parker, and two more were aimed at Ward, Gardner's husband,



Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, left, and his wife, Dorothy, right, visit with Chris Hurst, boyfriend of slain WDBJ-TV journalist Alison Parker, Friday, Aug. 28, 2015, in Roanoke, Va. The woman who survived the on-air shooting says she never saw the gunman walk up because the camera's bright light blinded her.

(Stephanie Davis/The Roanoke Times via AP)

Tim, said in a telephone interview from the hospital where she is recovering. Then he fired at Gardner, though his first couple of shots missed her. "And then when she dove down and got shot, he stopped shooting and took off," he said. "But she wasn't sure he was gone, so she just laid there playing possum until first responders showed up."
Flanagan fired 17 shots from a Glock pistol, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office said in a state-

ment Friday. The writings and evidence seized from Flanagan's apartment showed the man "closely identified" with people who have committed mass murders, including the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Parker and Ward died of gunshot wounds to the head and body. Vicki Gardner was shot in the back.

Flanagan shot himself to death after a police chase. Flanagan, a former reporter at WDBJ, was fired from the station in 2013 for poor performance and conflicts with co-workers. Gov. Terry McAuliffe met privately with station employees to share his con-

He also talked about his support for universal background checks for gun purchases and said he and Alison Parker's father, Adam, would fight for tougher gun laws.

dolences.

Despite volatility, on-air rampage difficult to predict

JAY REEVES DAVE DISHNEAU Associated Press ROANOKE, Virginia (AP) —

Living alone in a world of perceived slights, Vester Lee Flanagan II never quite crossed the line from being just another angry guy to doing something that would have prevented him from buying the gun he used to kill two former co-workers on live TV in Virginia.

Flanagan, 41, had never been arrested for a felony and had no criminal record. There are no records indicating he was ever committed for psychiatric care.

Hop-scotching around the country for work, he rarely stayed anywhere longer

than a year and didn't appear to socialize much. Instead, the lasting impression among those he met—whether it was co-workers or a store clerk—was for lashing out for imagined offenses that others couldn't fathom. His family at the other end of the country, he lived alone in an apartment near the TV station that had fired him two years ago.

Video from inside his home obtained by NBC News shows a sparsely decorated apartment and a refrigerator plastered with photos of himself, including old class pictures and modeling shots that he also posted on social media.

How can anyone stop someone from carrying

out a massacre when there seem to be no hints of looming violence — or no one close enough to notice?

"We all wish we could predict human behavior accurately all the time," said Clint Van Zandt, a former FBI behavioral profiler. "The behavior doesn't cross the line until he shows he presents a realistic, immediate threat to himself and others."

Flanagan fatally shot himself while fleeing police and couldn't explain why he killed WDBJ-TV reporter Alison Parker, 24, and 27-year-old cameraman Adam Ward. In a fax to ABC News, Flanagan wrote that he had been mistreated for being black and gay, and the "tipping point" was the shooting that killed nine black people at a church in Charleston, South Carolina, in June

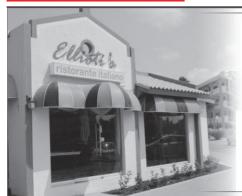
Perhaps to bring attention to his complaints after-thefact, Flanagan — using his on-air name, Bryce Williams — posted a grisly video of himself killing Parker and Wade and sent a series of tweets complaining about the two, who often worked together on the station's morning show. Of Parker, an intern when he was at the station ahead of his February 2013 firing, he complained she had made racist comments; of Ward, he claimed the cameraman went to the station's HR department

after working with him just a single time.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives spokesman Thomas Faison has said Flanagan legally purchased the gun used in the slaying that also left a local economic development official injured, something that couldn't have happened if he had prior felony convictions or a history of mental health commitments.

It's unclear whether Flanagan had ever been treated for psychiatric problems. The people he encountered described him as unstable and with a hair-trigger temper, but no one has so far said he made threatening remarks.





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US Financial Front:

Applications for jobless aid drop to very low 271,000



Job seeker Wedens Raymond, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., fills out a job application at a job fair in Sunrise, Fla. Fewer people sought U.S. unemployment benefits last week, evidence that employers remain confident in the economy and are laying off few workers.

(AP Photo/Alan Diaz)

US pending home sales rose modestly over July

JOSH BOAK AP Economics Writer WASHINGTON (AP)

Slightly more Americans signed contracts to buy homes in July, as pending sales edged up after dipping in June.

The National Association sales is over, with August of Realtors said Thursday that its seasonally adjusted pending home sales index rose 0.5 percent to 110.9 last month. This marks a slight recovery from June, when the index fell to 110.4 after reaching 112.3 in May, a level last seen in 2006.

Steady job growth coupled with low mortgage rates has improved home sales this year. As the recovery from the Great Recession enters its seventh year, more Americans have rebuilt their savings, in- revealed a mismatch becreased their home equity tween rising demand and and returned to the real es- limited supplies of homes tate market.

The modest increase in the Sales have increased 9.6 year.

"The pending sales index has stalled, at least for now," said Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics. "This very strongly suggests that the recent run of big gains in existing home sales more likely to fall than

Pending sales are a barometer of future purchases. A lag of a month or two usually exists between a contract and a completed

Completed sales of existing homes increased 2 percent in July to a seasonally adiusted annual rate of 5.59 million, the fastest pace in eight-and-a-half years, the Realtors said last week. But the market has also on the market.

index last month indicates percent over the past 12 that sales may soon be months, while the number peaking after surging this of listings has declined 4.7 percent.

C. S. RUGABER **AP Economics Writer** WASHINGTON (AP) — Fewer people sought U.S. unemployment benefits last week, evidence that employers remain confident in the economy and are laying off few workers.

The Labor Department said Thursday that weekly applications for unemployment

aid dropped 6,000 to a seasonally adjusted 271,000. The four-week average, a less volatile measure, ticked up 1,000 to 272,500. Applications are a proxy for layoffs and are at historically low levels, suggesting businesses are holding onto their staffs. Earlier this month, the four-week average stood at 266,000, the

lowest since April 15, 2000. The applications data will likely be closely watched in the coming weeks for any sign that companies are cutting jobs in the wake of the past week's stock market volatility and global economic turmoil. For now, the data suggests hiring has remained solid this month.

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Former PM Tsipras' popularity tanks ahead of Greek elections



Outgoing Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras speaks in Athens. Polls show that Tsipras' popularity has tanked in recent months to the lowest since his election in January.

(AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)

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NICHOLAS PAPHITIS Associated Press ATHENS, Greece (AP) -

Greece's former governing radical-left party is unlikely to win an outright majority in a crucial national election next month, and its lead over the opposition conservatives has narrowed, early opinion polls showed Friday.

The polls also found that former prime minister Alexis Tsipras' popularity has tanked in recent months to the lowest since his election in January.

The poll results, which indicate that the debt-crippled country might even need a second election before a government can be formed, came hours after a caretaker government was formed ahead of the Sept. 20 vote.

Prime Minister Vassiliki Thanou, the first woman to hold the post, was appointed Thursday following Tsipras' resignation last week. He stepped down after a rebellion by members of his radical-left Syriza party who objected to his agreement with the conditions of Greece's third international bailout.

The deal rankled with many Greeks, as Tsipras was elected on promises to reverse the resented income cuts and tax hikes that accompanied Greece's first two bailouts, contributed to a spike in unemployment that is still above 25 percent, and wiped a quarter off the economy.

Tsipras, who resigned barely seven months into his four-year term, has said he needs a stronger mandate to implement the tough austerity measures accompanying the new threeyear, 86 billion euro (\$97 billion) bailout.

The first opinion polls since Tsipras' resignation, published Friday, showed that his popularity has fallen significantly since the bailout deal, while Syriza has lost ground to the conservative main opposition New Democracy.

A University of Macedonia survey for private Skai TV gave Syriza 25 percent, down from 34.5 percent in June — and not nearly enough to secure him more than half of parliament's 300 seats. That compares to 22 percent for ND, which gained from 16.5 percent in June.

It also projects that nine parties will enter parliament. Crucially, it shows that Tsipras' former coalition partner, the right wing populist Independent Greeks — the only party Tsipras has said he could form a new coalition with — will fall short of the three percent parliamentary entry threshold. If confirmed, and if Tsipras sticks to his word, that would leave him unable to form a coalition, but ND would face similar difficulties.

Turkish President approves interim government

SUZAN FRASER Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — President Recep Tayyip Er-

dogan on Friday approved an interim government that will lead Turkey into a new election in November, paving the way for two legislators from Turkey's pro-Kurdish party to take up ministerial posts for the first time.

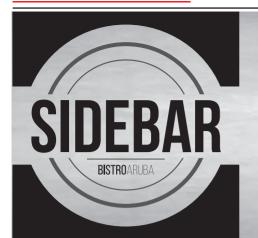
Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu was tasked with forming a caretaker government until an election scheduled for Nov. 1, after he failed to form a coali-

tion government following an inconclusive vote on June 7. Two opposition parties refused to participate in the 26-member powersharing Cabinet, forcing Davutoglu to fill ministries allocated to the opposition with independent figures.

Three legislators from the pro-Kurdish People's Democracy Party, or HDP, were also invited to join the Cabinet and two of them accepted, as did a prominent member of Turkey's nationalist party who broke ranks with his party.

Davutoglu said HDP legislators Muslum Dogan and Ali Havdar Konca will become ministers in charge of development and of relations with the European Union.

The HDP, which grew out of the Kurdish nationalist movement, has broadened its appeal to attract leftist and liberal votes from across Turkey. The two legislators take ministerial posts after the party, for the first time, managed to pass a 10 percent minimum vote threshold required for it to be represented in parliament in the June election.



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Iraq's top cleric says government must genuinely seek change

QASSIM ZAHRA Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — lraq's top Shiite cleric said on Friday the government must show it was seeking genuine change to combat corruption and improve services and not just introduce temporary measures to placate the embattled nation.

In a message delivered by a representative in a Friday sermon, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani also cautioned protesters who have staged weekly rallies to press demands for reform that they must guard against groups seeking to hijack their movement to further other interests.

Hours later, tens of thou-Baghdad and a string of cities south of the capital in support of Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi's reform drive and to press demands

for the dissolution of parliament and an end to corruption. The Baghdad rally, in central Tahrir square, was the largest by far, attracting at least 20,000, many of them waving the national flag. It was held under tight security measures but ended peacefully shortly after nightfall. Followers of a radical, anti-American Shiite cleric, Muqtada al-Sadr, joined the Baghdad rally for the first time on Friday. The smaller rallies were held in cities south of Baghdad, including the holy Shiite city of Karbala, the southern port of Basra and Babil.

Al-Sistani's comments, delivered in Karbala, challenged the government to show that it is "truthfully sands of Iraqis rallied in and seriously" responding to demands for change. "Citizens have experienced past promises that were never realized on the ground," he cautioned.



A protester holds a poster of Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi during a demonstration in Tahrir Square in Baghdad, Iraq, Friday, Aug. 28, 2015. Friday's protesters were joined for the first time by followers of Muqtada al-Sadr, a radical, anti-American Shiite cleric. The Arabic sentence on the poster reads, "we authorize Dr. Haider al-Abadi to change the constitution."

(AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

"Officials must work differently this time around and win the trust of the citizens," he said.

The weekly rallies, which as well as an end to corrup-

began last month, have been pressing for better basic services like power, water and medical care,

tion and sectarian politics. The graft is widely believed to be rampant, involving hundreds of millions of dollars in the 12 years since Saddam Hussein's regime was toppled.

Al-Abadi has responded to the rallies with a package of reforms that reduced the size of his Cabinet, and eliminated the three vice presidencies and the three deputy prime minister posts. He has also ordered a revision of the government's pay scale and the annulment of financial perks enjoyed by senior officials, lawmakers and consultants. His actions raised questions about the legality of his reforms and whether they violate the constitution.

"I will not back down," al-Abadi vowed in televised comments this week. "There is no going back on reforms.



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Attack draws new scrutiny to railways linking open Europe

LORI HINNANT LORNE COOK Associated Press PARIS (AP) — Europe's rail system is at the heart of its

for passports or even ID. The man who plotted to attack a high speed train last week paid in cash, allowing him to avoid identi-

pressure to increase security in the 26 countries that allow travel without border checks.

The EU has ruled out tight-

ternational security challenge they say isn't limited to mass transit, even if the railways are an acknowledged target.

The attack Aug. 21 on the Thalys train from Amsterdam to Paris happened at the height of the summer travel season, when the cars were packed with tourists, including the three American friends — two in the military — who tackled and ultimately subdued the gunman. The attacker, identified as Ayoub El-Khazzani, selected the train, refusing a ticket for an earlier connection. He had been flagged for links to radical Islamists by Spain, and German officials tracked him flying from Berlin to Istanbul in May.

Trains in Europe have been targeted for terrorist attack before, notably in London and Madrid. And Europe is not alone in its vulnerability. Train networks in Japan and the United States operate similarly. The Eurostar connecting Britain to Brussels and Paris requires a passport and luggage checks, and China has Xray checks on subways.

But the latest incident has left authorities puzzling over how to boost security without causing transport gridlock, imposing exorbitant costs security services, or unpicking the painstakingly drawn up agreement that allows passport-free travel.

"It is better to concentrate on concrete measures that we can put into place easily and that will actually improve security," said Nathalie Goulet, a French senator who led a commission investigating jihadi networks. "I have a hope for logical measures, not in extravagant things."

France hosts emergency talks in Paris on Saturday, with representatives from other high-speed international rail nations — Belgium, Britain, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland, as well as the European Union's top transport and interior affairs officials. "The Thalys is a train that covers four countries. This has to be dealt with on

a European level," Guillaume Pepy, the CEO of France's SNCF rail network. told the BFM television network this week.

Without open borders, rail services could not compete with low-cost air travel. Indeed any security measure that might stop people easily hopping on an international train downtown could be the system's undoing.

"It is important not to act rashly or overreact," said Libor Lochman, Executive Director of the European railways umbrella organization, CER. "The level of threat from terrorism is different in each EU country, so flexible measures are needed to adapt to changing security threats." The European Union believes there's no need to change the agreement, known as Schengen, which ensures free movement of goods, services and business.

National police and rail companies are free to screen and check passenger bags as much as they want and even to check people's ID, which citizens are obliged to carry in Europe. What they can't do is scan that ID to a database — be it customs or criminal - because this would constitute a border check.

Come Saturday, the EU will press for the increased use of closed circuit cameras in trains and stations, and more metal detectors at entrances.

The European Commission will raise the idea of using full-body scanners for people who try to board at the last minute. Another idea is the more concerted use of passenger information, which some companies already collect, the way that traveler data is collected for security purposes in air transport.

Plain-clothes "rail marshals" are another possibility. Staff working on trains could be trained to handle weapons, for example. The idea is to create psychological comfort, by reassuring travelers and leaving potential criminals wondering whether armed personnel are aboard.



French soldiers patrol at Gare du Nord train station in Paris, France. The attack Aug. 21 on the Thalys train from Amsterdam to Paris happened at the height of the summer travel season. France hosts emergency talks in Paris on Saturday, with representatives from other high-speed international rail nations, Belgium, Britain, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland. (AP Photo/Binta)

open borders, a way for passengers to travel on some of the world's fastest and most sophisticated mass transit with no need

fying himself, and boarded in Brussels, the EU capital, and carried a small arsenal of weapons in his bag. The thwarted attack raises

ening controls at the frontiers, leaving individual governments — and the train companies themselves — to resolve an in-





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North Korea leader dismisses top officials after crisis eases

HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has dismissed top officials in the wake of a recent standoff with South Korea, state media reported Friday, a move that suggests the young leader holds them responsible for allowing the con-

frontation to nearly spin out

of control.

The rival Koreas earlier this week threatened strikes against each other before agreeing on measures to reduce animosity. The standoff began after land mines that Seoul says the North planted maimed two South Korean soldiers. Seoul responded by resuming propaganda broadcasts critical of Kim's authoritarian rule for the first time in 11 years. Pyongyang then threatened to destroy the South Korean loudspeakers, and Seoul says the rivals exchanged artillery fire at the border.

During a ruling Workers' Party meeting, Kim hailed the agreement, which came after maralandmark" that put "catastrophic" inter-Korean relations back on track toward reconciliation, according to Pyongyang's Korean Central News Agency. Kim also dismissed an unspecified number of members of the party's Central Military Commission, which handled the standoff, a KCNA dispatch said.

It gave no reasons for the dismissals, but outside analysts said they may have been sacked because they misjudged South Korea's strong response to the mine blasts.

North Korea is intolerant of any outside criticism of its

political system and worries, analysts say, that the broadcasts heard over the border could demoralize frontline troops and residents and eventually weaken Kim's leadership. South Korea switched off its loudspeakers Tuesday after North Korea expressed "regret" that the South Korean soldiers were injured by the mine explosion. The vague agreement allows Pyongyang to continue denying it laid the mines and Seoul to claim that the term "regret" signals an apology.

It was not known if the dismissed North Korean officials received heavier punishment other than being removed from their party posts. Since taking over after the death of his dictator father Kim Jong II in late 2011, Kim Jong Un has orchestrated a series of executions and purges in what foreign analysts say was an attempt to bolster this grip on power. South Korea's spy service said that in April Kim had his defense chief executed for disloyalty. South Korean officials hope the agreement will thon talks, as a "crucial help improve ties, but the two Koreas have a history of failing to follow through on past reconciliation accords, and their ties have been bad since conservatives took power in Seoul in early 2008.

> In an indication that North Korea's hard-line stance hasn't changed despite the agreement, Kim said the deal was achieved not on the nead tiating table but thanks to his country's military capability based on its "nuclear deterrent," according to the KCNA. He was quoted as saying the North's military will guarantee peace on the Korean Peninsula.



Flames are seen during the South Korea-U.S. joint military live-fire drills at Seungjin Fire Training Field in Pocheon, South Korea, near the border with North Korea, Friday, Aug. 28, 2015. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)





Brazil's Rousseff faces growing impeachment threat

BRAD BROOKS Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — If the worst economic crisis in a decade, a massive corruption scandal centered on her ruling party and approval ratings in the single digits weren't rough enough for Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff, she's now faced with an angry rival who controls the possibility of impeachment proceedings against her.

Eduardo Cunha, the powerful speaker of Brazil's lower house of Congress, is Rousseff's sworn enemy and has been charged by her attorney general with taking millions in bribes in connection with a sprawling corruption scandal at state-run oil company Petrobras.

He's also the man who can call for an impeachment vote in the Chamber of Deputies against the president, an action that twothirds of Brazilians say they want to see happen, according to polls.

"Dilma is walking on the high wire without a net," said Eliane Cantanhede, one of Brazil's best-known commentators for the Estado de S. Paulo newspaper and Globo television. "Nobody knows what Cunha is going to do, and this situation is a double-edged sword for Dilma."

said he'll block important economic and political reform measures Rousseff wants to push through Congress, was weakened tell prosecutors," she added. "Nobody knows what he knows."

A few months ago, most analysts said the threat after federal prosecutors of impeachment against

Cunha, who has openly nobody knows what he'll and engineering firms who are already jailed. Prosecutors allege the kickback scheme involved roughly \$2 billion in bribes paid by companies in return for grossly inflated building



Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff waves to the press in Brazilia, Brazil. If the worst economic crisis in a decade, a massive corruption scandal centered on her ruling party and approval ratings in the single digits weren't rough enough for Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff, she's now faced with an angry rival who controls the possibility of impeachment proceedings against her.

(AP Photo/Joedson Alves)

charged him last week with corruption, which "may be good for Dilma, because he's losing the political backing to push through impeachment," Cantanhede said.

"But as a weakened figure, he also becomes a political suicide bomber, because Rousseff was only a distant possibility.

She's not been accused of wrongdoing in the Petrobras case, in which dozens of federal deputies, senators and other top political figures are under investigation, along with some CEOs of Brazil's top construction contracts over more than a decade. But with an economy in recession, along with growing inflation and unemployment, Rousseff has the worst approval rating for any president since Brazil's return to democracy in 1985. Additionally, the top federal audit court years.

is looking into whether she illegally used money from state banks to fill budget holes in 2014, and Brazil's top electoral court is investigating if any of the Petrobras kickback money was used to fund her re-election campaign last year, in which she won a narrow victory. If wrongdoing is found in either instance, that immediately opens a strong legal avenue for her opponents to begin impeachment proceedings against her in Congress.

"Right now, I'd say the chance of seeing impeachment proceedings is about 50-50," said Marcos Troyjo, a professor of international affairs at Columbia University who runs its BRICs lab in Rio and is a former Brazilian diplomat. "And if you ask me tomorrow, those chances for impeachment may have grown."

The "single most important element to determining impeachment whether goes forward" is what happens to Cunha, Troyjo said. Cunha has two weeks to present his rebuttal to Brazil's Supreme Court, which alone can decide whether or not he will stand trial on the charges brought by the Attorney General Rodrigo Janot. Even so, he could remain in office until and if he's found guilty, a ruling that could take many

Mexico adoption-for-cash scheme took babies from mothers

MARK STEVENSON Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) - A child welfare official in northern Mexico took at least nine babies from poor or drug-addicted mothers and offered them to adoptive parents in exchange for payments ranging from \$5,000 to \$9,000, authorities said Friday. Raul Ramirez, the head of the government human rights commission in the border state of Sonora, said the scheme apparently went on for years and may involve many more children.

"They searched for vulnerable mothers, poor people

or those who had problems can couples. of drug addiction, and took away their babies and offered them in adoption in return for money," Ramirez

Three of the babies have been identified and recovered, but Ramirez said "there may be many more, from years back, and some of these children could be 20 years old by now."

The problem, he noted is that "the children have developed affection for their (adoptive) parents, and now they're crying for their parents."

All the children were apparently adopted by Mexi-

The state prosecutors' office said the main suspect, Vladimir Arzate, 30, worked in the office of the state prosecutor for child protection. The office had the power to take in at-risk children, but would have had to turn them over to a child welfare agency.

Instead, Arzate is accused of working in collusion with a doctor, who would deliver fake birth certificates for the stolen babies under the adoptive parents' names, listing them as the biological parents.

Ramirez said many of the babies went to middle-

class or upper-middle-class families desperate to adopt and avoid the lengthy, complex process that rules adoptions in Mexico.

The prosecutors' office said 16 arrest warrants have been issued, which appear to cover some of the adoptive parents.

Since none of the children appear to have been abused, prosecutors are charging the suspects with child trafficking or child theft. Those charges are punishable by 15½ to 40 years in prison.

The question remains as to how the scheme was allowed to operate for so

long. Apparently, few of the biological parents had contacted authorities seeking the return of the children.

Ramirez said one possible biological grandmother had contacted the office. Local media cited the story of a farmworker whose son was taken from a local hospital after she brought him in for treatment of heatstroke.

Ramirez suggested more officials or doctors may have been involved.

"The big losers here are the children," said state Attorney General Carlos Navarro.

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the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 and 20-to-34 consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. Stephen and Mrs. Ruthanne Scaturro of Brick Township, New Jersey, Mr. Pedro and Mrs. Migdalia Rangel and children Arivana, Eduardo and Pedro, of Miranda Baruta, Venezuela, and Mr. Jose and Mrs. Marianela Rangel-Cecere and children Alessandro, Gabriella and Cristina, of Caracas, Venezuela and Boca Raton, Florida.

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the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice group of island guests who are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba at the La Quinta Beach Resort as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of







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ken of appreciation to quests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive

New Jersey, and Mrs. Marianne Kuczynski and her daughter Susan Kuczynski of Piscataway, New Jersey. The honorees are loyal members of the Marriott Ocean Club, and they love Aruba for the climate, beaches, safety and restaufriendly Aruban people.

On this trip the DeLuca couple brought family members with them

and they are all having a great time on the 'One Happy Island' of Aruba. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel and Ms. rants, but most of all they love the Nadia Dabboussi representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Lilian Britten, Mrs. Lisette Bouwman and Erwin Noquera GM of the Marriott Ocean Club.

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SPURIS SODAY



Roger Federer, of Switzerland, hits a forehand to Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, during the men's final at the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament, Sunday, Aug. 23, 2015, in Mason, Ohio. Federer won 7-6 (1), 6-3.

Associated Press

After restful summer, Federer in the swing heading into U.S. Open

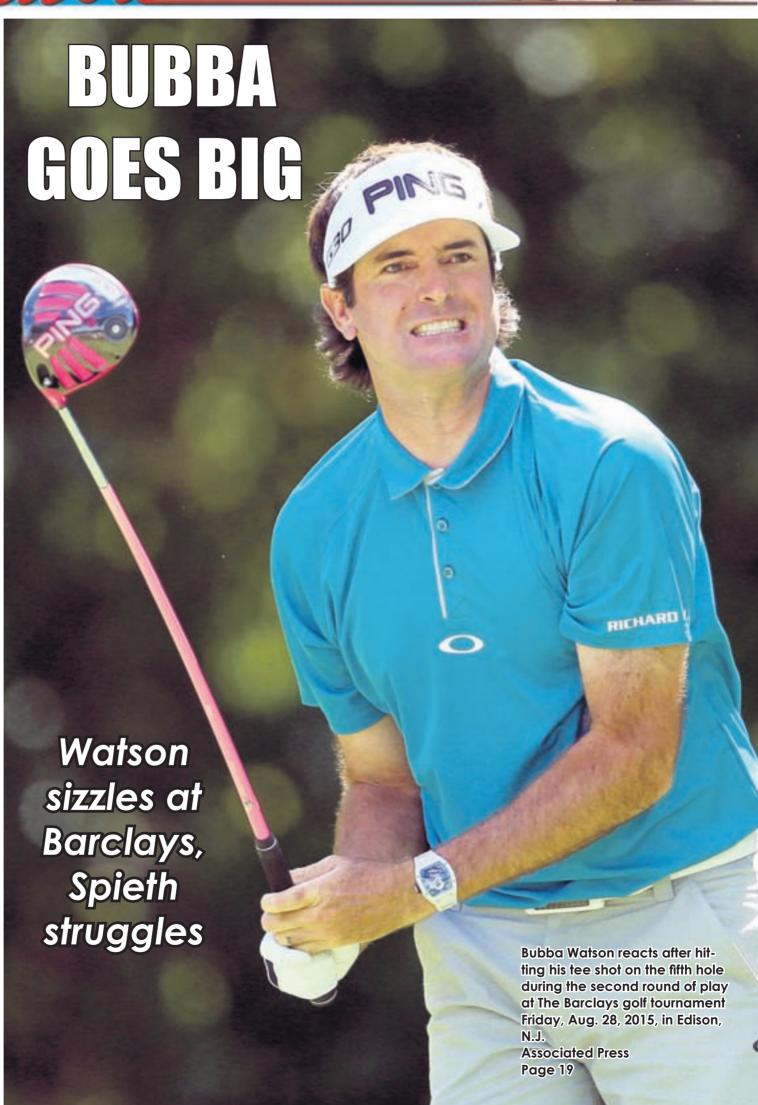
JOE KAY
AP Sports Writer
CINCINNATI (AP) — Roger
Federer isn't in such a rush
anymore. He's doing things
his way and taking time to
savor each moment.

After losing to Novak Djokovic in the Wimbledon final, he took a month off from tournament play to be with his family and visit Africa as part of his charity work. The break seemed to work for the 34-year-old Swiss star.

Federer returned to the court in Cincinnati last week and won the tournament in dominating fashion, moving him up to the No. 2 seed in the U.S. Open. And when he had his seventh Cincinnati trophy in hand, he headed over to his family in the stands to enjoy the moment with them.

The network television interview? It could wait a few minutes.

Continued on page 20





Gallardo wins 100th, Rangers end Toronto's 5-game win streak

The Associated Press ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) —

Yovani Gallardo earned his 100th career victory, Delino DeShields had a part in all the Texas runs even without an RBI and the Rangers stopped Toronto's fivegame winning streak.

The Rangers averted a sweep by the AL East leaders and moved a halfgame ahead of Minnesota for the second AL wild-card spot.

Gallardo (11-9) threw 5 1-3 scoreless innings, giving up three hits.

He improved to 100-73 in 241 career games with Milwaukee and Texas.

Shawn Tolleson closed for his 26th save in 28 chances. DeShields drew a walk from Marco Estrada (11-8) in the first and scored on Mitch Moreland's single. DeShields finished 2 for 2 with three walks.

RAYS 5, TWINS 4



Texas Rangers starting pitcher Yovani Gallardo works against the Toronto Blue Jays in the first inning of a baseball game Thursday, Aug. 27, 2015, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

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ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Relievers Brandon Gomes, Alex Colome and Brad Boxberger combined for 4 2-3 scoreless innings and Tampa Bay stopped Minnesota's six-game winning streak.

Gomes (2-4) got an inningending double play with two on in the fifth during his 1 2-3 innings. After Colome worked two innings, Boxberger struck out all three batters he faced for his 31st save

Joey Butler, recalled from Triple-A Durham to take the place of injured outfielder Desmond Jennings, had an RBI single off Tommy Milone (6-4)

ANGELS 2, TIGERS 0

DETROIT (AP) — Matt Shoemaker pitched one-hit ball into the eighth inning in his hometown ballpark, Albert Pujols drove in one run and scored another and the Los Angeles Angels beat Detroit.

Angels catcher Carlos Perez got a big assist in the win, too. Two of them, in fact, as he picked off Anthony Gose at first base and later threw him out trying to steal second.

Shoemaker (6-9) went to high school about 30 minutes from Comerica Park and attended Eastern Michigan University, a school that has a large ad on the right field fence.

Huston Street got his 31st save in the combined two-hitter.

Randy Wolf (0-2) gave up one run in seven innings.

ROYALS 5, ORIOLES 3

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Yordano Ventura struck out a career-high 11 in just six innings, Paulo Orlando homered and Kansas City beat Baltimore.

Ventura (9-7) allowed two hits and four walks to improve to 5-0 in his last seven starts.

Chris Tillman (9-9) took the

loss.

Orioles star center fielder Adam Jones ran into the wall chasing a fly ball in the first. He left soon after that with whiplash, and X-rays on his neck and wrist were negative.

WHITE SOX 4, MARINERS 2

CHICAGO (AP) — Carlos Rodon took a shutout into the seventh inning, Adam Eaton had three hits and scored three runs and the Chicago White Sox beat Seattle.

Jose Abreu and Trayce Thompson had RBI doubles for Chicago, which wore throwback uniforms that debuted in 1976 and included white wide-collared untucked jerseys paired with navy blue pants and white socks.

Rodon (6-5) left after giving up a two-run homer to Franklin Gutierrez in the seventh. David Robertson got three outs for his 27th save in 33 chances.



Watson takes 1-shot lead at Barclays as Spieth misses cut

DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

EDISON, N.J. (AP) — Jordan Spieth lost out on a chance to play the weekend at The Barclays.

He also lost his No. 1 rank-

Bubba Watson, momentarily distracted by a rare warning for taking too long to play a shot, recovered with a birdie on the 18th hole at Plainfield Country

Club for a 2-under 68 and a one-shot lead going into the weekend at the opening FedEx Cup playoff event.

On an otherwise sleepy afternoon at a course where no one could get some separation, peculiar moments stood out — a bad time for Watson, bad golf from Spieth.

Trying to rally to make the cut, Spieth hit into a hazard on the 12th hole, and a bogey later became a double bogey when he was penalized one shot for stepping on his ball during the search. He had a 73, the first time since the Tour Championship last year that he had consecutive rounds over par.

He missed the cut by five shots. That means Rory McIlroy, who isn't playing this week, returns to No. 1. "I've reached that peak already and I know it's going to be close enough to where if I just get the job done next week, I'll be back in that ranking," Spieth said. "But again, that ranking, it's great once you reach it but it's not something that I'm going to live or die on each week."

McIlroy becomes the 14th player since the world get to No. 1 without playing that week.

Watson is in good shape through 36 holes to claim his own No. 1 ranking — a victory would move him to the top of the FedEx Cup. Much like the world ranking right now, that figures to change by the week.

Ultimately, what matters to Watson, Spieth and others is winning the Tour Cham-

ranking began in 1986 to Watson was at 7-under 133.

> British Open champion Zach Johnson made five birdies to go with four parsaving putts from outside 8 feet for a 65. He was one shot out of the lead, along with Henrik Stenson (66), Tony Finau (69) and Jason Dufner (68).

> Watson typically struggles on courses with blind shots, and Plainfield has plenty of

time would have led to a one-shot penalty. Watson said he rushed his next shot from the fairway and came up 30 yards short of the green, leading to bo-

Asked about his round, the first thing he brought up was the bad time, which he thought was "hilarious." He spoke to the rules official after the round.

"I told them, 'I'm not mad

something else crazy that happened." Spieth made 10 bogeys and two double bogeys over 36 holes. He had one stretch on the front nine of four bogeys in five holes. The exception was a birdie. But after starting the back nine with back-to-back birdies to get within two shots of the cut line, his long approach on the par-5 12th found a hazard of thick grass.

> Spieth said he told his caddie he was going to play the shot if he could see the ball, and take a penalty drop if he could not see it. Instead, he stepped on it. He thought because he announced that he might take a penalty that stepping on the ball didn't matter. Spieth, instead of getting into a long explanation with a rules official on the next hole, waited until after the round and accepted the additional one-shot penalty.

Ultimately, it didn't matter. He still missed the cut for the third time this year. He has a week before he tees it up next week in the TPC Boston, which has a Labor Day finish. And he

sounded frustrated when he said, "I'm definitely searching for answers."

Some players have a month to search by missing the cut, making it impossible to move into the top 100 in the FedEx Cup and advance to the top 100. That aroup included Tim Clark and Graham DeLaet. Adam Scott also missed the cut and is likely to fall out of the top 100 at the end of the tournament Sunday.



Jordan Spieth yells after hitting his drive on the fifth tee into the crowd during the second round of play at The Barclays golf tournament Friday, Aug. 28, 2015, in Edison, N.J. **Associated Press**

pionship to capture the \$10 million bonus.

Halfway through this event, no telling what else will happen over the next two days.

PGA Thomas had a few late bogeys for a 69 and shrugged when asked if he was happy with his score. He was seven shots back.

"This is a course where if you make the cut, you have a chance to win," Thomas said.

them. But he's picking out targets, smashing his driver close to the green on the shorter holes and getting by just fine.

The bad time came on No. Tour rookie Justin 16 with a difficult pin position, made even tougher by the fact Watson watched Spieth's shot roll back some 100 feet off the green. Watson took longer than 40 seconds — 1 minutes, 2 seconds to be exact — and was given the bad time. One more bad

at anybody about the bad time.' I went over the time, which is the right ruling," he said. "It's just on a hole like that, one of the toughest holes we've ever played besides 2011 when we played the same pin placement, it's very difficult. "But yeah, I'm very happy about my round," he said. "I'm excited where I'm at. I made the cut and I'm in the last group. Hopefully, I'm here talking to y'all tomorrow about

US OPEN 2015: Serena Williams eyes 1st Grand Slam since 1988

HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

Ask Serena Williams what could prevent her from completing tennis' first true Grand Slam in more than a quarter-century at the U.S. Open, and the response will not include the name of a single possible opponent. "Well," she began when that question was posed, "I'm always one of my biggest competitors. I can always stop myself. So that's why I kind of just try to stay positive on the court and stay really focused and stay as calm as I can."

What else? "I have to make sure I'm good physically," Williams said.

Anything more to worry about?

"Fear and doubt can stop me, too," she continued. "If I step out on the court and I'm a little nervous or I'm fearful, then that's never a really good sign."

Really? That happens?

"It does happen. But I just embrace it and I bottle it up and I throw that bottle away," Williams said. "And I just go for it."

Already considered by many the greatest women's tennis player and among the greatest athletes ever — no matter the gender, sport or era — the 33-year-old American has become quite adept at discarding that fear and doubt. When the U.S. Open





At left, in a June 6, 2015, file photo, Serena Williams holds the trophy after winning the final of the French Open tennis tournament against Lucie Safarova in Paris, France. At right, in a Jan. 31, 2015, file photo, Serena Williams holds the trophy after winning the final of the Australian Open tennis tournament against Maria Sharapova in Melbourne, Australia.

Associated Press

begins Monday, the No. 1-seeded Williams will embark on a bid to become the first tennis player since Steffi Graf in 1988 to win the sport's four most prestigious tournaments in a single season.

Only five players have pulled off a calendar-year Grand Slam; the last man to do it was Rod Laver in

"Just the fact that she's gotten herself into that position is an achievement on its

own," said Maria Sharapova, who is seeded No. 3 and could face Williams in the semifinals in New York. "Her consistency and her level of play throughout this year, and in previous years and her career, have spoken for itself."

Just to add to the stakes, there's also this on the line at the U.S. Open, where Williams has won the past three championships and a half-dozen in all: She can equal Graf's professionalera record of 22 Grand Slam singles titles (13 of Margaret Court's 24 came against amateur competition).

"What Serena's doing just now is incredible," said two-time major champion Andy Murray, who joins No. 1 Novak Dkokovic and No. 2 Roger Federer as the favorites for the men's title. Williams' pursuit figures to

garner the greatest atten-

There is, after all, history

tion at Flushing Meadows.

in the offing. She can become the first player in the Open era with seven U.S. Open trophies, and the first woman since Chris Evert nearly 40 years ago with four in a row.

Mostly, there is the Grand Slam to chase.

"When I was younger, that was definitely a goal of mine, to win a Grand Slam," Williams said. "It's become more of, like, a distant dream, fable, kind of thing. ... I've never been this close, so we'll see."

At Wimbledon, she capped a second self-styled "Serena Slam" of four major titles in a row, dating to last year's U.S. Open; she also won four straight in 2002-03. But there is a difference between that and what Williams now will try to achieve: claiming the championship at the Australian Open on hard courts in January, the French Open on clay courts in June, Wimbledon on grass courts in July, and the U.S. Open on hard courts in September, all within the same year.

"There's no doubt winning four in a row almost never happens. It's arguably as impressive, but not quite, because of the pressure factor of what's building now towards the U.S. Open. There's no doubt that Serena's feeling that," said former U.S. Davis Cup captain Patrick McEnroe, an ESPN tennis analyst.

FEDERER

Continued from page 17

He's no longer rushing on to the next thing.

"I just let it settle a bit more," Federer said in an interview with The Associated Press after he won his latest title Sunday. "I take the time to celebrate, to be quite honest."

A rested and ready Federer also has added a few wrinkles to his game heading into the U.S. Open, a tournament he has won five times but not since 2008. He'll be in a different bracket than Djokovic, whom he beat in straight sets in the Cincinnati finals. A new Federer for New

York?

"I love coming to New York, but also again I'm quite happy to leave it again because every week in New York is intense," Federer told the AP. "It's busy. A lot of people, tourists, a lot of traffic. On the same side, I love that. The energy in the city is just unbelievable.

ums, restaurants, places to stop and shop and visit. So much to do there. And of course the tournament is one of my favorite ones on tour, I must be quiet honest."

He's one of the more in-

given how he's spent his summer.

Federer has adjusted his playing schedule the last few years, giving him a chance to spend more time with his wife and children. It's also been a way for him to manage the stress on his 30-something body.

"You walk around and you For the first time, he decidsee things you don't see ed to skip the Rogers Cup in other places. I like New in Canada this month, stay-York, what it offers: muse- ing in Switzerland to work continuing with it. out instead. Normally he uses the tournament to begin honing his game for the hard-court season.

Instead, he showed up in Cincinnati for his first matches since Wimbledon and was sensational, espetriguing players in this one, cially on his serve. Federer it's going to be in New York. time on court lately.

won all 10 sets during the week and wasn't broken in 39 service games. He faced only three break points all tournament, a remarkable statistic. He looked fresh. And his game looked a little different, too.

Federer started coming to the net more often after an opponent's second serve, trying to force the issue and shorten points. It worked so well that he's considering

"I see it more as a challenge for me and more fun for me rather than just focusing on my opponent," Federer said. "That's why I'm having a different approach. Maybe it's just going to be this week, maybe

I think it's going to give me some good ideas moving forward from here."

Djokovic noticed change in Federer, who felt comfortable enough to try new things on Cincinnati's fast courts.

"Yes, he definitely is comina more forward to the net and trying to shorten the points," Djokovic said. "He does so well, and he obviously had to make some tactical changes and kind of adjust to the new generation of players."

After watching er's play in Cincinnati, it wouldn't surprise Djokovic if he makes another deep run at the U.S. Open even though he's spent so little



NL Capsules

Murphy leads Mets to sweep of Phillies, 9-5 in 13 innings



New York Mets' Daniel Murphy watches a two-run double in the 13th inning of a baseball game against the Philadlephia Phillies, Thursday, Aug. 27, 2015, in Philadelphia. The Mets won 9-5.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Daniel Murphy hit a go-ahead double in the 13th inning after making a spectacular defensive play to end the 10th, leading the New York Mets over Philadelphia for their seventh straight win.

Reliever Carlos Torres led off the 13th with a single, Curtis Granderson singled and both scored on Murphy's hit off Hector Neris (2-2).

With two outs in the 10th, Jeff Francoeur hit a hard shot that deflected off Torres' leg. Murphy made a diving stop at first base, then flipped a backhanded, no-look toss toward the bag that the hustling Torres caught as he beat Francoeur by a half-step.

Torres (5-5) pitched 2 1-3 scoreless innings for the Mets, who held their 6 1/2-game lead over Washington in the NL East.

NATIONALS 4, PADRES 2

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jayson Werth and Ryan Zimmerman homered, and starter Joe Ross allowed only a bunt single in six innings as Washington beat San Diego.

Zimmerman's RBI single in the fifth gave the Nationals the lead for good at 2-1. He drove in eight runs during the three-game series. Werth homered off Andrew Cashner (5-13) in the sixth.

Ross (5-5) won his second straight start, allowing the bunt single by Corey Spangenberg and one run.

Jonathan Papelbon got his fourth save with Washington despite giving up a run on Yonder Alonso's twoout single.

DODGERS 1, REDS 0
CINCINNATI (AP) — Zack
Greinke and two relievers

Greinke and two relievers combined on a four-hitter and the Los Angeles Dodgers completed a threegame sweep of reeling Cincinnati.

Greinke (14-3) lowered his major league-best ERA to 1.61 and allowed four hits over seven innings, striking out nine.

Jim Johnson pitched the ninth for his 10th save.

The Reds finished 1-9 on their homestand. Anthony DeSclafani (7-10) took the loss.

Outfielder Yasiel Puig and first baseman Adrian Gonzalez both exited early with injuries for the NL Westleading Dodgers.
GIANTS 9, CUBS 1

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Kelby Tomlinson hit a grand slam for his first career home run and Marlon Byrd added a three-run shot, leading Madison Bumgarner and San Francisco over Chicago.

The Giants moved within 5½ games of the Cubs for the second NL wild-card spot.

Bumgarner (16-6) struck out 12 in six innings, giving up one run and two hits. He won his fifth straight start and matched the Cubs' Jake Arrieta for most victories in the majors.

Dan Haren (8-9) took the loss.

Later, the Cubs acquired struggling reliever Fernando Rodney from Seattle for cash.

PIRATES 2, MARLINS 1

MIAMI (AP) — Gerrit Cole snapped the longest winless drought of his career, Pedro Alvarez homered and Pittsburgh held off Miami.

Cole (15-7) allowed one run and five hits in 7 1-3 innings, striking out four and walking none. He hadn't gotten the win in any of his previous five starts.

Mark Melancon posted his 41st save in 43 chances.

Justin Nicolino (2-2) gave up two runs in six innings. CARDINALS 5, DIAMOND-BACKS 3

PHOENIX (AP) — Brandon Moss hit his first home run with St. Louis and Tony Cruz hit his first of the season to lead the Cardinals to a four-game sweep.

It was the Cardinals' fifth straight win overall and they finished 7-0 against the Diamondbacks this season.

Moss's tiebreaking two-run shot in the fifth inning off starter Rubby De La Rosa (11-6) put the Cardinals ahead 5-3.

Carlos Martinez (13-6) earned the win with six innings of four-hit ball, allowing three runs and striking out six with two walks.

Trevor Rosenthal got the last three outs for his 41st save.





No way he'd quit: Kidney disease can't stop U.S. hurdler

EDDIE PELLS AP National Writer

were over.

BEIJING (AP) — When the doctors hooked Aries Merritt onto the dialysis machine two years ago, they told him his running days

The doctors were focused on his kidneys.

They never looked at his heart.

The American won a bronze medal in the 110-meter hurdles Friday night at the world championships — a victory he'll have less than four days to celebrate. Next Tuesday, he'll be on the operating table for a kidney transplant.

"This bronze medal means more to me than my Olympic gold," said the 2012 Olympic champion, who also set the world record later that year. "If I was a normal human being, we might have seen a record, who knows? But the reality is, I'm not a normal human being."

No arguing that.

Merritt's bronze, won with his season-best time of 13.04 seconds, was one



United States' Aries Merritt, bronze, celebrates after the men's 110m hurdles final at the World Athletics Championships at the Bird's Nest stadium in Beijing, Friday, Aug. 28, 2015.

Associated Press

of only three high points for the U.S. team on a day when there could have been more.

The others were Tianna Bartoletta's gold in the long jump — a victory that comes 10 years after she won her other world title in that event. And Ashton Eaton's first day in the decathlon. Eaton ran the 400 meters in 45 seconds flat, a world decathlon record, to take the lead and also get in the hunt to break his own world record of 9,039

"No way in hell did I think I'd run that fast," said Eaton, who has 4,703 points through five events.

While the decathlon goes 10 events, Merritt's race travels across 10 hurdles. It's an event that calls for taking things one step at a time, which is exactly what Merritt did when doctors told him his kidneys were operating at less than 15 percent and he'd need to retire.

"Pretty much, it mentally destroyed me," Merritt said.

But instead of quitting, he pushed on, even while the disease progressed and chipped away at his fitness and his physique. Racing at 164 pounds — a full six pounds lighter than when he set the world record — Merritt ran a near-perfect race Friday night, never touching a hurdle and falling by 0.01 seconds to Hansle Parchment of Jamaica for second. Sergei Shubenkov of Russia took gold.

Shubenkov learned about Merritt's condition when he was asked about it at the medalists' news conference.

"You're going to have a kidney transplant and

ritt's sister, LaTova Hubbard, who will join Merritt on the operating table Tuesday to donate her kidney.

"It could've been totally different," Hubbard told The Associated Press in a phone interview. "To see all he's gone through — the pain, the hurt, barely able to get out of bed, barely able to walk. And now, a few months later, he has a medal."

Merritt's bronze brought the United States' total to 14, a number that figured to be higher heading into the final two days of the

Two-time world champion Trey Hardee withdrew three events into the decathlon with a back injury. The U.S. got shut out in the 200 meters, won by Dafne Schippers of the Netherlands.

Defending 110-meter hurdle champion David Oliver hit three of the first four barriers and finished seventh.

"A volatile event," he called it.

And a chance at multiple medals in women's hurdles ended instead in a shutout, punctuated by Dawn Harper-Nelson's spill after hooking her leg on the second hurdle in the semifinals. It was a fall of a different sort — when Lolo Jones hit the ninth hurdle to spill out of the lead — that allowed Harper to cross the line first and win Olympic gold at the Bird's Nest in 2008. She was as shocked then as she was Friday night.

"Tonight is going to be one of those nights when you get to your room and you're still in disbelief," Harper-Nelson said before Danielle Williams of Jamaica won the gold. "You cry yourself to sleep."

Merritt was all smiles but he knows there are big challenges ahead.

"The trip home is probably aoina to be depressina. because I know I'm going home to have surgery, not hang out with my friends," he said.

He said he'll take the rehab slow, and when he's cleared to run again, he'll pretend like he's starting over.

Lindeman pounces on Cousin's mistake to win 7th Vuelta stage

LA ALPUJARRA, Spain (AP)

— Bert Jan Lindeman of the Netherlands took advantage of a mistake by Jerome Cousin of France to sprint ahead and win the seventh stage of the Spanish Vuelta on Friday, while Esteban Chaves of Colombia retained the overall race-leader's red

Cousin had led a group of five riders up the final ascent after breaking away from the pack, but within sight of the finish line his back wheel touched Ilia Koshevov's front tire and he lost his balance.

"I am happy I could make this victory, this is really special," said Lindeman. "Every race is important and now we have the victory, that's really nice."

The 26-year-old Team Lotto rider finished in 5 hours, 10 minutes, 24 seconds.

Cousin had looked strong, with the five-rider group leading the pack by more than six minutes on the climb, but while trying to time his final sprint he looked back, touched wheels and came off his cycle.

Bulgaria's Koshevoy finished second, nine seconds behind, and Italy's Fabio Aru finished third, 29 seconds adrift. Cousin recovered to cross the line fourth.

In the overall standings, Chaves leads secondplace Tom Dumoulin of the Netherlands by 10 seconds with Daniel Martin of Ireland third, 33 seconds behind. Chaves' overall time is 27 hours, six minutes, 13 seconds.

"I'm really happy, another day that we get to keep the red jersey," said Chaves.

"Every day that I get to wear the jersey is important and I can only thank my whole team."

Chaves said the final ascent was tough because it was a steady 50-minute climb, but his legs felt fine at the end.

"To be able to be among the best at the end in an honor for me," he said.

With the temperatures reaching 37 degrees Celsius (98.6 F), the heat appeared to hamper Chris Froome's ascent and the Tour de France winner lost 27 seconds on Chaves to sit 1 minute, 22 seconds behind overall.

Saturday's stage is a largely downhill 182.5-kilometer (113.4-mile) ride from Puebla de Don Fadrique to Murcia.

you're here at world championships?" Shubenkov said, shaking his head in disbelief.

Watching at her brother's house in Arizona was Mer-



What's in a billion? Facebook users hit milestone in 1 day

BARBARA ORTUTAY AP Technology Writer NEW YORK (AP) — A billion people logged in to Facebook on a single day this week, marking the first time that many members used the world's largest online social network in a 24hour period. The number amounts to one-seventh of

the Earth's population.

Monday's milestone was mostly symbolic for Facebook, which boasts nearly 1.5 billion users who log in at least once a month. But CEO Mark Zuckerberg, who founded the network in his Harvard dorm room 11 years ago, reflected on the occasion with a post.

"'I'm so proud of our community for the progress we've made," he wrote. "Our community stands for giving every person a voice, for promoting understanding and for including everyone in the opportunities of our modern world."

Facebook achieved 1 billion overall users in 2012. but this week's milestone is perhaps more significant. It means the social network has become an essential service in many of our lives, a sort of online connective tissue that binds us to friends, family and even strangers who find themselves in similar circumstances. We need it daily, or more. Facebook has long sought to connect everyone in the world with its service. A lofty goal, it's not so different from the three other tech superpowers that are changing commerce, communication and worming their way into every part of our lives. Apple has its gadgets, Amazon delivers our every physical need and Google, well, when was the last time you went a day without Google?

(Google, incidentally, receives an average of 100 billion search requests per day, which makes it likely that more than a billion people use it daily.)

Most of the billion people who logged in to Facebook on Monday were outside the U.S. and Canada. Of Facebook's overall us-



In this May 18, 2012 file photo, a man surfs the Facebook site on his mobile phone in Mumbai,

Associated Press

billion people. Internet.org,

a partnership with other tech giants that aims to improve Internet connectivity around the world. The group's plans include developing cheaper smartphones and tools that would reduce the amount of data required to run apps, as well as working with telecommunications companies to provide basic, free Internet services. The effort has received some criticism for putting Facebook in the position of Internet "gatekeeper," deciding what sites people can access and going against the spirit of "net neutrality."

Zuckerberg disagreed.

"Net neutrality ensures network operators don't discriminate by limiting access to services you want to use. It's an essential part of the open Internet, and we are fully committed to it," he wrote in April. "To give more people access to the Internet, it is useful to offer some service for free. If someone can't afford to pay for connectivity, it is always better to have some access than none at all."

ers, more than 83 percent come from other countries. In a video posted Thursday, Sheryl Sandberg, Facebook's chief operating officer, mulled what a billion really means.

"Look closely, and you'll see more than a number," she said in the video, a montage showing Facebook users' photos, posts and videos from all over the world.

"It's moms and little brothers and cousins and cousins of cousins. There's Sam, Dante, Ingrid and Lawrence. It's camping trips, religion ... there's likes, loves and unfortunately still some hate. Look past the number. You'll find friendships."

As it grows, Facebook's next billions of members will likely come from outside the U.S., from India, South America, Africa and perhaps even China, where the site is officially blocked. To help expand its flock, Facebook has been working to make its service easier to use on the basic, old-fashioned phones used in many parts of the world. It's also working to get Internet access to the roughly two-thirds of the world's population that is not yet connected — or about 5 launched

Two years ago, Facebook

Survey: Generation LOL most irked by grammar, spelling slips

LEANNE ITALIE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — It's the LOL generation that appears most annoyed by bad grammar and spelling slips, according to a survey by Dictionary.com.

The site found in an online Harris Poll done July 31 to Aug. 4 that 80 percent of American adults 18 and older consider themselves good spellers, but they may be overestimating their abilities.

The survey of 2,052 people showed 71 percent responded that they often Across all age groups, 59 find spelling mistakes in correspondence from others.

Among respondents 18 to 34, 74 percent said they were irked by such slips on social media — more than any other age group.

"While we'd assume they'd be accustomed to see-

ing and using abbreviated speech and lingo because they are a tech-savvy generation, we actually found that they have much higher standards," said Liz Mc-Millan, the site's chief executive, from the company's headquarters in Oakland, California.

"The poll was a great way to get a sense for how people really feel about the way we communicate, whether through our speech, social media posts or even signs and restaurant menus," she said.

percent said improper grammar is their biggest beef when it comes to the English language.

Women notice grammar and spelling mistakes more than men, with 75 percent saying they often find errors in the writing of oth- they're and there."

ers. That's compared to 66 percent of men who spot errors, according to the sur-

Specifically what is the biggest peeve? Typos on restaurant menus, store signs and ads for 59 percent of respondents.

Misspellings of "February" and "definitely" were singled out by 38 percent and 31 percent, respectively, as most bothersome when respondents were presented with a list of word candidates.

Thirty percent said the "I before e except after c rule" — as violated in "receive" — bothered them the most.

But THE most irksome set of oft-confused words, at least to 46 percent of the survey's respondents, was an old standard: "their,

Aruba TODAY

Calm on Wall Street:

A turbulent week ends on a placid note

ALEX VEIGA AP Business Writer

Well, that was exciting.

Days after China threw the biggest scare into Wall Street in years, U.S. stocks have come surging back and ended the week Friday on a placid note that suggested the worst may be over for now.

Even so, investors are buckling their seat belts for more turbulence ahead.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell a scant 11.76 points Friday, or 0.1 perthe Federal Reserve may hold off raising interest rates this fall, and a new report that said the U.S. economy is growing at a more robust rate than previously believed.

Still, the concerns that triggered the sell-off remain: slumping oil prices, a slowing Chinese economy, weak corporate earnings forecasts and uncertainty over interest rates.

That means there's likely to be more market volatility ahead, something that visiting New York on Friday. Because he recently left his job, Chang has to sell investments he bought with stock options within 90 days — something he can't do now without taking a big loss.

But for other investors like James Day, a data management specialist in Ferndale, Michigan, the stock market swoon was a signal to buy low and boost his contributions to his 401 (k).

"I'm not looking to retire tomorrow, so as far as I'm



Skip Schweiss, third left front row, Managing Director, Advisor Advocacy and Industry Affairs of TD Ameritrade, joins the applause during opening bell ceremonies of the New York Stock Exchange, Friday, Aug. 28, 2015. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

cent, to 16,643.01, capping a week that saw stomach-churning losses and gains of around 600 points per day. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 1.21 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,988.87. The Nasdaq composite added 15.62 points, or 0.3 percent, to 4,828.32.

U.S. stocks went into their swoon last week, mostly over signs of a slowdown in China, the world's second-biggest economy. Before the six-day losing streak had ended, the Dow had plummeted 1,900 points and the S&P 500 was undergoing its first "correction," a decline of 10 percent or more, in nearly four years

But stocks soared at midweek, cutting the Dow's losses nearly in half, in a rally analysts attributed to bargain-hunting, signs that

history backs up. September has been the worst month for stocks. "For the last few years, let's face it, there's been very little volatility," said JJ Kinahan, TD Ameritrade's chief strategist. "We've had a very impressive rally. Not that we can't go higher, but it's not going to be an easy path to get there." The S&P 500 is still nearly three times higher than its post-2008 financial crisis low in March 2009. The Dow is up roughly 2 1/2 times higher.

Despite the bounce-back this week, stocks are on course for their worst monthly performance in more than three years. The S&P 500 is down 5.5 percent in August, and the Dow is down 5.9 percent.

"That kind of volatility is really pretty scary," said Hans Chang, 33, who was concerned, I have time," said Day, 43. "If I don't think I'm staring down the barrel of some long-term recession or unemployment, I look at these dips as an opportunity."

Investors can expect the volatility to continue at least until the market gets a better idea from the Fed on the timing of an interest rate increase, something many investors fear could put a damper on the U.S. economy.

Federal Reserve Vice Chairman Stanley Fischer said Friday that before the recent turbulence, there was a "pretty strong case" for raising rates in September. But he said the Fed is watching how events unfold. Traders and strategists have often described the U.S. stock market as overbought.

Fed vice chair in spotlight as markets seek rate hike clues

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — What once seemed a sure bet — that the Federal Reserve would raise interest rates in September — suddenly appears less certain following a wild week of stock market turbulence.

The market's ride and how the Fed will react provide the backdrop for the annual high-profile economic conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Fed Chair Janet Yellen decided to skip this year's meeting, so Vice Chairman Stanley Fischer is commanding top attention, with investors eagerly parsing his every word.

Fischer's message: Incoming economic data and market developments over the next two weeks will play crucial roles in determining whether the Fed raises interest rates at its September meeting.

In an interview Friday with CNBC, Fischer acknowledged that before the recent market volatility, "there was a pretty strong case" for a rate hike at the Sept. 16-17 meeting, though it wasn't conclusive. Now, the jury is out because the Fed needs to assess the economic impact of events in China and on Wall Street. But Fischer said Fed officials realize that they need to act before data requires them to hike rates to alleviate inflation. "When the case is overwhelming, if you wait that long, you will be waiting too long," Fischer said. "There is always uncertainty, and we will just have to recognize that."

Fischer tried to reassure markets, as Yellen has, that when the Fed begins to raise rates, it plans to do so very gradually. The Fed's key rate has been at a range of zero to a quarter-point since late December 2008. Fischer said the first move would nudge that up by a quarter-point to a range of 0.25 percent to 0.5 percent and then pausing to monitor the impact. He said with that small increase, rates will still be historically low, continuing to provide support to consumer and business borrowers.

"We will be adjusting the knob slightly," he said.

Fischer said his "confidence is pretty high" that low levels of inflation will head toward the Fed's target of 2 percent as temporary effects from a big drop in energy prices fade. A government report Friday showed that the Fed's preferred measure of inflation is up just 1.2 percent over the past 12 months. It has been below 2 percent for the past three years.

Fischer will deliver more comments on inflation in a formal speech to the conference on Saturday.

Other Fed officials who have spoken since the market turmoil hit with force have hinted at a delay. But they haven't ruled out a hike in mid-September.

William Dudley, president of the New York Federal Reserve, helped ignite a Wall Street rally this week when he told reporters that the case for raising rates in September was "less compelling to me" that it had been a few weeks ago, before sudden fears about China's economy upset global markets.

But Dudley added that the notion of a rate hike "could become more compelling by the time of the meeting as we get additional information" about the economy.

Esther George, president of the Kansas City Federal Reserve, which sponsors the Jackson Hole conference, said she was taking a "wait and see" approach. "We've seen data that suggests the economy is strong enough to act. So we'll see what happens by the September meeting," George, who doesn't have a vote on the Fed's policy committee this year under the committee's rotating system, told Fox Business Network.



US group urges China to open insurance, securities markets

JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — An American business group urged China on Friday to allow more access to its insurance and other service industries, saying foreign skills could help develop its volatile stock markets and cope with disasters like the recent chemical explosion in Tianjin.

largely closed Opening banking, logistics and other markets wider to for-

eign competitors would support the communist leadership's effort to nurture service industries and reduce reliance on trade and investment to drive economic growth, the American Chamber of Commerce in China said. The group's deputy chairman, Lester Ross, pointed to China's stock market plunge and the Aug. 12 explosion in Tianjin that killed at least 145 people, and said bringing in more glob-

al expertise could help to develop financial markets and reduce the impact of disasters."Our hope, frankly, is that the downturn in the market will encourage the Chinese government to open faster," Ross said at a news conference.

In a report, the chamber also cited potential opportunities in fields including engineering, health care, communications technology, legal services, real estate, entertainment, online commerce and logistics. The report is part of an annual series but its release comes at a time when stock market turmoil and unexpectedly weak export and manufacturing data have fueled concerns about the health of China's economy. That has prompted urging from economists for Beijing to move faster on promised reforms aimed at making the economy more productive by opening state-dominated industries to private and foreign competition.

Despite promises of reform, foreign service businesses are "pessimistic about the regulatory environment," said the chamber chairman, James Zimmer-

Ross said China's insurance industry, with a history of just 35 years, lacks the experience of foreign insurers at spotting potential risks and encouraging policyholders to reduce them.

As markets drop, question is: will the Chinese still shop?

SYLVIA HUI DAVID McHUGH Associated Press BICESTER, England (AP) —

The designer outlet mall of Bicester Village is set in the English countryside near Oxford, but it might as well be in China.

Quiet Mandarin chatter fills the air. Most of the shoppers are Chinese — and so are half the sales assistants. In the Burberry store, many try on the brand's signature trench coats, which go for at least 600 pounds (\$925) discounts. Some after punch numbers into their smart phone calculators to work out the exchange rate; more take photos of the goods on offer, likely to message friends at home for a nod of approval.

"I don't know too much about designer labels. My friends tell me what to get," says Andy Cao, clutching about six shopping bags. He came from Shanghai to Europe with a group of about 30 colleagues to shop and do some sightseeing. Over the past decade, Chinese customers — at home but most crucially abroad — have become a powerful market force in the global trade in expensive clothes, jewelry, watches, perfumes, drinks and handbags.

But the stock market plunges of the past few days on the Shanghai exchange have raised the question: Will the drop in the Chinese economy be worse than expected? And how will it



Shoppers carry designer label branded bags at Bicester Village designer outlet centre, in Bicester, England. Chinese customers have become a powerful market force in the global trade in expensive clothes, jewelry, watches, perfumes and handbags, but nobody knows how the recent turmoil in Chinese financial markets will impact on the sales of designer brands.

(AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth)

per? John Guy, a luxury in London, says there has goods analyst at financial been some shift in demand example for watches.

affect the Chinese shop- services group MainFirst away from the very high end of prestige brands, for

economy to improve its

Japan reports inflation, household spending soften in July

ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — The backdrop to the wild drama in financial markets over the past few weeks is a less dramatic but more daunting reality: the deep-seated challenges for sustaining long-term growth, especially for aging economies Such trends are leading like Japan's.

Japan released data Fri- economy will return to exday showing its economy pansion after a 1.6 percent has yet to escape the doldrums more than two years after Prime Minister Shinzo Abe launched an unprecedented effort to jolt the country out of its deflationary rut. Core inflation excluding volatile food prices flat-lined at its lowest level

July and household spending also slowed, the government reported.

Unemployment edged down to 3.3 percent and household incomes rose 5.4 percent in real terms, thanks largely to semiannual bonus payments. economists for forecast the contraction in annual terms in April-June.

But the middling vital signs, and worries over China's ability to stoke its own growth, may raise pressure on the Bank of Japan to up its unprecedented barrage of monetary stimulus.

ing trillions of yen (billions of dollars) a month on asset purchases intended to push inflation higher and end years of deflation, or chronic price decreases.

The aim is to get consumers and businesses to spend more money and spur growth, but so far the inflation rate remains far from the official 2 percent target, and the spending rising machinery orders and that accounts for most of Japan's economic activity has remained lackluster despite modest increases in some workers' wages.

It is unclear if the recent gyrations in share prices will have a spillover effect on spendina.

in more than two years in The central bank is spend- The main Nikkei 225 stock index climbed 2.8 percent on Friday, though it was still down more than 6 percent for the week. BOJ Gov. Haruhiko Kuroda said in a speech to the Japan Society in New York this week that the bank is keeping a close eye on potential risks and will "make adjustments without hesitation as necessary." He pointed to construction starts — and the first hike in the price of ketchup in Japan in 25 years — as evidence the monetary easing is bearing fruit. Still, he acknowledged widespread disappointment with Japan's progress so far in revamping its

competitiveness as promised by Abe in early 2013. "In hindsight, it is clear that there has been a lack of incentive and impetus to make change happen," he said.Kuroda acknowledged concerns over the risks from weakening demand as exports to China and other emerging markets stall. But he and other Japanese officials insist the economy is still heading for a "moderate recovery." And while households remain frugal, relatively solid retail sales could carry on into a much stronger showing for August, says Masamichi Adachi of

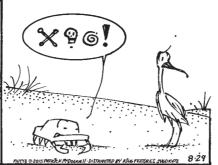
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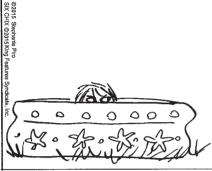
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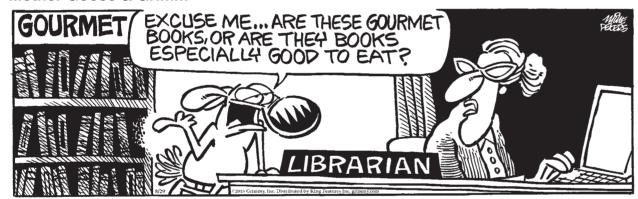
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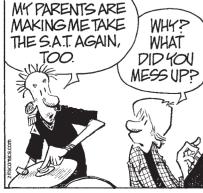


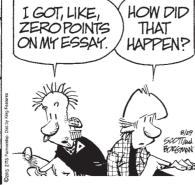
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues









Conceptis Sudoku

8	2			6				
4				1			3	
		1			8			
					5	7		
6	7						1	4
		5	9					
			7			4		
	9			8				3
				8			2	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

er	3	6	8	2	7	5	1	9	4
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nd s	8	7	6	5	1	2	9	4	3
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/este	1	2	3	4	9	6	8	7	5
	7	3	2	6	5	8	4	1	9
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	6	9	4	7	3	1	2	5	8

ACROSS

- 1 As easy as falling __ log 5 Come
- unravel 10 Baby bears 14 Bosc or Bartlett
- 15 Subject not to be mentioned 16 "__ upon a
- 17 Scottish caps 18 Bring upon
- oneself, as a penalty 19 Carousel or Ferris wheel
- 20 Church spire 22 Neckerchiefs 24 Kook 25 India's first
- Prime Minister 26 Meat & veggies
- on a skewer 29 Give a gesture of assent 30 NASA's focus
- 34 Corridor 35 Tiny amount 36 Annoy
- 37 Years lived 38 Tijuana native 40 Hearing organ 41 Buster or

DOWN 1 __ for; selects 2 Daring act

3 Renown

4 Weapon

stockpile

5 Lopsided 6 Window glass

7 CBS rival

8 Wakened 9 Set fire to

12 A's followers

23 Firebug's crime

13 Beholds

21 Tavern

25 Detects

uniform

27 Rarin' to go

28 Depressing

29 Veto; reject

31 __ of time;

10 Evil 11 SMU or MIT

43 Swindle 44 Bouquet holder 45 Made angry

Diane

- 46 Shortest month: abbr. 47 Relinquished 48 Lists of dishes 50 Word from
- Scrooge variety pack 54 Skin at the
- base of a fingernail 58 Patella's place 59 Zeal
- 61 Persuade 62 Hotels 63 Den & kitchen 64 Frilly trimming 65 History

66 Sugary

early 32 Stop 33 Blundered 35 Actor Stiller 36 Prohibit 67 Forest animals

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathe

Friday's Puzzle Solved

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SETS OBEYS ER	R	S

26 Cloth for a GI's ©2015 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved.

38 Fashion show participant 39 Corn on the 42 Violent storm

44 Car or bus 46 Long thin rut 47 Feline 49 Approaches 50 Erupt

51 Omit 52 Actress Paquin 53 __ Dept.; store section for suits 54 __ back; return 55 Fuel, for some 56 Scarcity; dearth

57 Former mates

60 Fawn's mother





Pope Francis holds a ball presented by a pilgrim as he arrives for his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican.

AP Photo/Alessandra Tarantino)

Vatican gets embroiled in 'banned books' fray

NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican has gotten embroiled in a modern-day, secular version of the Index of Banned Books.

The Holy See press office had to set the record straight on Friday after the Italian media interpreted a formulaic blessing by Pope Francis of a lesbian children's book publisher and her partner as an endorsement of their lifestyle. Author Francesca Pardi had written to Francis in June complaining about how her books — some of which deal with children growing up with gay, sin-

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gle and divorced parents had been maligned by Catholic groups and politicians. A half-dozen of her titles, for example, were among the 49 titles that Venice Mayor Luigi Brugnaro recently banned from public preschools pending a review of their appropriateness because they deal with gender issues.

Thinking that Francis might appreciate the books' inclusive message, Pardi sent him copies of her 30 titles, explaining that they had nothing to do with "gender theory" or even sex but merely conveyed a message of tolerance. A few weeks ago, an offi-

Downtown

cial in the Vatican's secretariat of state, Monsignor Peter Wells, sent her a note in Francis' name thanking her for the gesture, blessing her and her partner, and encouraging her to continue with her "activities in the service to young generations and the diffusion of authentic human and Christian values."

Pardi says she didn't take the letter by any means to be a papal endorsement of her lifestyle — she and her partner have four children together — but the Italian media interpreted it as such, prompting the Vatican on Friday to step in.

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Scientists, tribe study shrinking U.S. glacier

PHUONG LE Associated Press MOUNT BAKER, Washington

(AP) — Mauri Pelto digs his crampons into the steep icy slope on Mount Baker in the northwestern state of Washington and watches as streams of water cascade off the thick mass of bare, bluish ice. The water carves vertical channels in the face of the glacier as it rushes downstream.

What little snow from last winter is already gone, so ice is melting off the glacier at a rate of nearly three inches a day this summer, he said.

"At the rate it's losing mass, it won't make it 50 years," said Pelto, a glaciologist who returned this month for the 32nd year to study glaciers in the North Cascades range. "This is a dying glacier," he said.

Glaciers on Mount Baker and other mountains in the North Cascades are thinning and retreating. Seven have disappeared over the past three decades, and the overall volume of glaciers in the range have lost about one-fifth of their volume.

The shrinking glaciers here mirror what is happening around the U.S. and worldwide: As the planet warms, glaciers are losing volume, some faster than others.

Two of the largest glaciers



In this Aug. 7, 2015, photo Oliver Grah and Jezra Beaulieu, scientists hired by the Nooksack Indian Tribe, hike toward Sholes Glacier in the Mount Baker Wilderness, Wash.

in Yosemite National Park in California have retreated over the past century, losing about two-thirds of their surface areas. In Alaska, a recent study of 116 glaciers estimated they have lost about 75 billion metric tons of ice every year from 1994 to 2013. In Montana, scientists are already seeing the impacts in increased stream tem-

perature and changes to high-elevation ecosystems. In 1850, there were 150 glaciers at Glacier National Park; now there are 25.

"These glaciers are, from a geological standpoint, rapidly disappearing from the landscape," said Dan Fagre, a research ecologist with U.S. Geological Survey stationed in Glacier National Park. "They're so small and vulnerable that they could be gone in a matter of decades."

Glaciers —thick masses of accumulated snow that compress into ice and move — are important indicators of climate change because they are driven by precipitation and temperature.

The glaciers on Mount Baker, a volcanic peak northwest of Seattle, provide a critical water source for agriculture, cities and tribes during the late summer. The icy glacial melt keeps streams cool for fish and replenishes rivers during a time of year when they typically run low.

For the Nooksack Indian Tribe, which has relied for hundreds of years on salmon runs in the glacier-fed Nooksack River, a way of life is at risk. Without that glacial runoff, rivers will dry up more quickly and warm up faster, making it harder for salmon to spawn or migrate to the ocean.

"Climate change will impact the ability of tribal members to harvest fish in the future," said Oliver Grah, water resources manager for the tribe, which has teamed up with Pelto. They want to know how glacier runoff will affect the river's hydrology

Associated Press and ultimately fish habitat

and restoration planning. On a recent day in August, Grah and colleague Jezra Beaulieu hiked 5 miles into the Sholes Glacier to study how climate change will influence the timing and magnitude of stream flow in the river. It's their fifth field trip to the glacier this summer, and each time they're amazed at how rapidly the snow and ice are melting.

Grah strings a measuring tape across the stream, wades in shin-deep in the fast-moving, brownish water and measures the depth of the water streaming from the toe of the glacier. He calls out numbers that Beaulieu records in a yellow notebook. They're trying to calculate how much flow and sediment is coming from the glacier.





Texas judge wants \$10M set aside in 'Fifty Shades' case

DAVID WARREN Associated Press

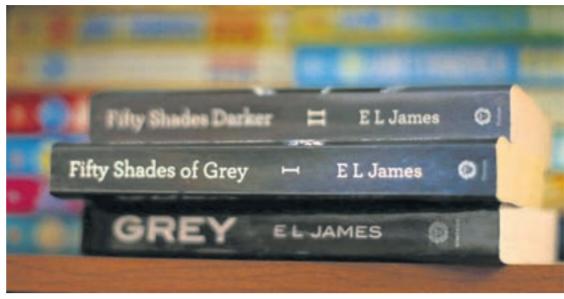
DALLAS (AP) — A Texas judge has told lawyers for an Australian woman and her publishing company to set aside \$10 million for a former business partner who says she was defrauded out of her rightful share from the sale of the erotic best-seller "Fifty Shades of Grey" and two companion novels.

State District Judge Susan McCoy said Wednesday that she wants the money deposited in a court registry by Sept. 25 as attorneys seek to negotiate a judgment amount for Jennifer Pedroza, who lives in the Dallas suburb of Arlington. A jury earlier this year determined that Amanda Hayward, one of Pedroza's former business partners in ebook publisher The Writers Coffee Shop, cut Pedroza out of her share of royalties from the \$40 million sale of the EL James trilogy to

Random House. Hayward reached a settlement with another woman involved in the venture. The terms of that deal were sealed.

The trilogy's first volume flew off of the shelves when it was released in 2011, and the three books have sold more than 125 million copies worldwide and spawned a movie starring Jamie Dornan and Dakota Johnson, with two sequels also planned.

According to court records, Pedroza says Hayward used "chicanery" to cheat her out of her rightful share. Accountants have determined that Pedroza's 25 percent stake in the online publishing venture was worth approximately \$10.7 million. Pedroza's attorney, Michael Farris, said Hayward restructured the venture to effectively make Pedroza an independent contractor and then fired her. He said Pedroza has had to return to teaching,



This Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2015 photos shows British author EL James' "Fifty Shades of Grey" and its two companion novels on a book shelf in Chicago.

Associated Press

and now works at a Fort Worth elementary school. One of Hayward's attorneys, Dallas lawyer Robert Kantner, said Thursday that Hayward plans to appeal but he declined to comment further about the case. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported that Hayward's attorneys have

said she doesn't have \$10 million in cash, and that the judge noted Wednesday that Hayward's most valuable asset is her home in a Sydney suburb.

Even though Hayward plans to appeal, her lawyers must negotiate a judgment amount with Pedroza's side. The two sides are

expected to return to court in late September, when McCoy may determine whether to approve of the terms, Farris said.

Farris speculated that any appeal may contend that The Writers Coffee Shop wasn't a partnership and so Pedroza wasn't a partner eligible for royalties.

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Ballerina Misty Copeland calls Broadway debut 'incredible'

MARK KENNEDY AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—The stage lights have been hard to get used to and she worried about limited rehearsal time, but ballerina Misty Copeland has put aside her nervousness and is finding her feet on Broadway. "It's an incredible feeling," she said this week after making her debut in the dance-heavy musical "On the Town" at the Lyric Theatre. "I felt nervous that I was going to forget stuff, which I don't typically feel. We rehearse so much as ballet dancers and the steps become ingrained in your muscle memory."

Copeland is playing Miss Turnstiles, a love interest for one of three sailors enjoying a few hours of shore leave in 1940s New York. The role requires both acting and singing, in addition to plenty of dancing, including a 15-minute ballet at the end. The part was originally done by Megan Fairchild, a principal dancer at the prestigious New York City Ballet.

Copeland, who recently became the first African-American woman to be a principal dancer at Ameri-



This photo provided by Joan Marcus on Aug. 28, 2015 shows ballerina Misty Copeland in the musical "On the Town" at the Lyric Theatre. **Associated Press**

can Ballet Theatre, had only six rehearsals and sang her dialogue out loud only twice before going on, but each time she appeared the crowd went wild, cheering her entrances, big numbers and giving her a thun- here, and it's an incredible

derous standing ovation at the end. The audience was more diverse and young.

"The audience is so different from what I'm used to. You know immediately that they are excited to be

feeling. I just felt so overwhelmed — that first entrance and throughout," she said.

Copeland admitted to feeling pressure before her debut Tuesday, but said she enjoyed herself more Wednesday, after getting that first performance behind her.

"I remembered all the steps, but I wasn't happy with Miss Turnstiles. But I was happy with how everything else went. The lights are very different on this stage — they're a lot stronger," she said. "But I'm already starting to adjust and get used to it."

"On the Town," which was critically acclaimed when it opened in October, has struggled to fill its enormous, 1,874-seat theater. It closes on Sept. 6, which will also be Copeland's last performance.

"I'm so sad that the show is leaving. I hope at some point it comes back or travels. It's such an entertaining and spectacular production," she said.

Copeland said she goes to the stage door after every performance and hopes the crowds will follow her back uptown to the city's ballet venues.

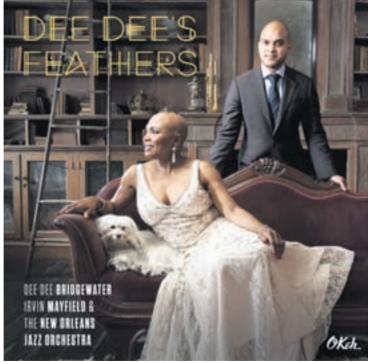
"It's such a great crowd and I hope that me stepping into this atmosphere will make them feel that they're invited to come into my home," she said.

Bridgewater celebrates New Orleans on Katrina anniversary

CHARLES J. GANS Associated Press

Grammy- and Tony-winner Dee Dee Bridgewater is the most complete jazz singer on the scene today — combining superb vocal chops and the acting talent that makes her a masterful interpreter of lyrics. Her skills are fully displayed on "Dee Dee's Feathers," a joyful collaboration with trumpeter Irvin Mayfield's New Orleans Jazz Orchestra. The release celebrates the Crescent City's rich musical tradition, past and present, on the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

Among the traditional songs, Bridgewater shows her fine and mellow side on "What A Wonderful World" and "Do You Know What It Means," balads popularized by Louis Armstrong, with Mayfield contributing



This CD cover image released by OKeh/Sony Music/DDB Records shows "Dee Dee's Feathers," the latest release by Dee Dee Bridgewater.

Associated Press

some heart-tugging trum- chael's "New Orleans," she

pet solos. On Hoagy Carmi- cuts loose by making her

voice blow like a trumpet. Bridgewater gets gritty on the Mardi Gras-parade staple "Big Chief," exchanging rousing vocals with guest Dr. John and engaging in a call-and-response chorus with the orchestra. The classic blues "St. James Infirmary" is updated with customized lyrics in an uptempo arrangement.

The new songs are also steeped in the tradition. Mayfield's "Congo Square," a tribute to the traditional birthplace of jazz, features guest percussionist Bill Summers' African drumming, while the trumpeter's wistfully romantic ballad "C'est Ici Que Je T'Aime," celebrates the city's French tradition.

Bridgewater heats up with some energetic scatting on "Treme," the exuberant theme to HBO's New Orleans-based series, with the orchestra's horns blasting away, which segues into the Rebirth Brass Band's party song "Do Whatcha Wanna." The title track also featuring Summers, draws on the rhythms of the feathery-costumed black New Orleans Mardi Gras Indians with a repeated refrain of "Hold 'em steady."

Bridgewater and Mayfield conceived this project to promote their collaboration on the newly opened New Orleans Jazz Market, the city's first solely-dedicated jazz performance and education center. Located in a reconverted department store in the Mid-City neighborhood devastated by Katrina, it's a symbol of the Big Easy's rebirth and resiliency a decade after the





In this Dec. 2, 2014, file photo, Brooke Burke-Charvet attends the Tenth Annual UNICEF Snowflake Ball in New York. **Associated Press**

Brooke Burke-Charvet to co-host Miss **America pageant**

WAYNE PARRY Associated Press ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) —

Brooke Burke-Charvet, the actress, entrepreneur and fitness guru, will co-host the 2016 Miss America pageant next month.

The Miss America Organization announced Friday that Burke-Charvet will join Chris Harrison on the nationally televised broadcast from Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall on Sunday, Sept. 13 on ABC.

"It's always impressive and inspiring to meet the young women who strive to make a difference in their communities,

while furthering their education and advancing principles of service, style and success," she said.

With The Stars" and went on to co-host eight seasons of the ABC television series. She founded and launched BabooshBaby.com, where she sells her popular postpregnancy belly wraps. In 2011,

she launched the online mommy destination ModernMom.com, where she is the co-CEO.

She also developed, coproduces and hosts a new series debuting in October for the Hallmark-owned online streaming service Feeln called "Breaking Bread With Brooke Burke," a foodoriented lifestyle talk show with celebrity guests.

Pageant judges include Brett Eldredge, Taya Kyle, Kevin O'Leary, Amy Purdy and Zendaya. Nick Jonas Burke-Charvet won the mir- will act as the official music ror ball trophy on "Dancing curator of the evening.

Rick Springfield plays state fair after winning butt lawsuit

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) — Rick Springfield was a big hit at the opening day of the 2015 New York State Fair. So was his tush. The singer best known for his 1981 No. 1 hit "Jessie's Girl" returned to the suburban Syracuse

fairgrounds for the first time since he was sued after falling off the stage during a 2004 concert there. A New York woman said she suffered serious head injuries when Springfield's buttocks hit her.

African superstars, Bono in campaign to empower women

TOM ODULA CAELAINN HOGAN Associated Press LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — African stars joined U2 frontman Bono on Friday in a campaign to use music to help empower women around the world.

Bono and top African male musicians D'banj, Diamond and Banky W announced that they will be included in a remix of the song "Strong Girl," a rallying cry for women's empowerment which features top African female talent. Bono, whose ONE advocacy group is the creative force behind the campaign for women's empowerment, said music can create awareness and help shift policies because politicians are driven by popular things.

"Politicians in the end have to be elected, and what is popular drives all of their decisions. It's that simple. So if the subject is popular among the electorate, then it suddenly dawns on politicians that this is a subject they, too, feel strongly about," Bono told report-



Irish rockstar Bono, second left, poses with African music stars after a press conference in Lagos, Nigeria, Friday, Aug. 28, 2015, African stars and rock star Bono say music can help push for the empowerment of women globally.

Associated Press

Sipho Moyo, Africa executive director of ONE, said the campaign hopes to create structural and policy changes globally that will ensure women are empowered. The ultimate goal is to eradicate extreme poverty in 2030, Moyo said.

Moyo said next month's U.N. meeting that will set the world's development agenda for the next 15 years should focus on boosting women's access to health, economic empowerment and political participation.

That agenda addresses issues ranging from ending poverty "in all its forms everywhere" to ensuring quality education and affordable and reliable energy. It will be adopted at a summit just before the annual meeting of world leaders at the General Assembly in late September.

'Elementary' star Lucy Liu is a first-time mom to Rockwell



In this Monday, May 13, 2013, file photo, actress Lucy Liu arrives for the American Ballet Theatre Spring Gala at the Metropolitan Opera House, in New York.

LOS ANGELES (AP) There's a new guy in "Elementary" star Lucy Liu's life and he won't be hard to detect — a bouncing baby boy.

The actress took to Instagram and Twitter on Thursday to reveal that the 46-year-old is a new mom to Rockwell Lloyd Liu, "brought into the world via gestational carrier." He is her first child and a publicist said both "are healthy and happy.

Liu plays Dr. Joan Watson opposite Jonny Lee Miller's Sherlock Holmes in the CBS crime drama. Her other on-screen credits include "Ally McBeal" and the films "Charlie's Angels" and "Kill Bill."□



In Islamic State war, like others, heritage always a target

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — A nearly 2,000-year-old temple in the Syrian city of Palmyra this week was the latest victim in the Islamic State group's campaign of de-

Nearly every ethnic or religious conflict across history has seen at least some cultural destruction, along with genocides like the Nazi Holocaust against the Jews.

tage of their opponents. estant preachers railed in sermons against Catholic statues of saints and other religious relics as forms of idolatry. Mobs of Protestants attacked hundreds of Catholic churches, particularly in France, Germany and the Netherlands, de-

the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem in 70 A.D. after a revolt against Roman rule. The temple, built 500 years earlier to replace the first temple destroyed by the Babylonians, was the heart

Roman armies destroyed sculptures and plaques and the palace's carved wooden gate.

BEIJING'S OLD PALACE

During the Second Opium War, waged by Britain and France against China to force it to open up markets and legalize the opium trade, British troops in 1860 destroyed the sprawling Old Summer Palace in retaliation after the Chinese tortured and executed members of a British diplomatic mission.

Built some 100 years earlier, the palace was a sprawling complex of palaces, pavilions and gardens filled with works of art. After orders came from Britain's High Commissioner in China, Lord Elgin — notorious for his looting of marbles from Greece's Parthenon — it took 3,500 troops three days to burn down and tear apart the palace.

ISLAMIC MILITANTS

For decades in the 20th century, Islamic militant groups in the Middle East, including al-Qaida, put little emphasis on destroying shrines or historical sites. But al-Qaida's ally the Taliban brought back the tactic in dramatic fashion in 2001 when they blew up the two towering 1,500-year-old statues of Buddha carved into a mountain in the Afghan region of Bamiyan, stunning the world.

Since then, the tactic has gained prominence among Islamic extremists as a way to tout their claim to "purify" society and create their vision of an Islamic state. Sunni hard-liners have increasingly attacked shrines across the Middle East.

In the West African nation of Mali, Islamic radicals in 2012 overran Timbuktu, the historic city of Islamic culture. The militants destroyed 14 of the city's 16 tombs of prominent figures and thinkers and also targeted the library of camel-skin-bound manuscripts dating back to the 13th century that included ancient learning in astronomy, law, history and philosophy. They set fire to the institute where many of the manuscripts were stored, destroying an estimated 4,000.



The Western Wall and the Dome of the Rock, some of the holiest sites for Jews and Muslims, are covered in snow in Jerusalem. Throughout the centuries, invaders, religious fanatics and colonizers have intentionally targeted works of art, houses of worship and other pieces of heritage. The goal is often to uproot, eliminate, replace or impose control over the culture and heritage of their opponents.

across the territory it controls in Iraq and Syria.

The group has destroyed ancient buildings and artifacts, as well as shrines to Shiite and Sunni Muslim saints — looting some sites for profit — all in the name of purging what it considers symbols of idolatry to create a society dedicated solely to its extreme and violent interpretation of Islam. The IS campaign has horrified many around the world with a scope of destruction that hasn't been seen for decades.

Still, it isn't unprecedented. Throughout the centuries, invaders, religious fanatics and colonizers have targeted works of art, houses of worship and other pieces of heritage. The goal is often to uproot, eliminate, replace or impose control over the culture and heri-

WAHHABISM

The Islamic State group's rabid ideology against shrines and historical sites is rooted in Wahhabism, the ultraconservative Sunni Muslim interpretation preached by Sheikh Mohammed Abdul-Wahhab, who lived in the 1700s in what is now Saudi Arabia. Allied with the powerful Saud family, Abdul-Wahhab's followers destroyed anything they saw as promoting idolatry or polytheism, including shrines of Shiite and Sufi saints, and the destruction of a major Shiite shrine at Karbala in what is now Iraq. Today, the alliance with Wahhabism remains one of the foundations of rule by the Al Saud royal family.

PROTESTANT REFORM

During the Reformation in 16th century Europe, Prot-

stroying statues and images — and in England under King Henry VIII, churches were stripped of their relics and riches. The result erased from Europe's cultural landscape untold numbers of works of art.

SPAIN

During the Muslim invasion of Spain in the 8th century, churches were often destroyed or turned into mosques. Conversely, when Christians took back the peninsula in the centuries-long Reconquista, completed in the 15th century, they destroyed mosques or turned them into churches. Also, after King Ferdinand II and Queen Isabella ordered the expulsion of Jews from the peninsula in 1492, synagogues were turned into churches.

JEWISH TEMPLE JERUSALEM

had held the Ark of the Covenant, which vanished after the Babylonian conquest. All that remains of the second temple is its Western Wall, which is today the holiest site in Judaism, located at the base of Jerusalem's Temple Mount.

(AP Photo/Dusan Vranic)

BENIN

From the 15th to 17th centuries, Benin — in modernday Nigeria — was one of the grandest capitals in Africa. In the late 19th century, negotiations with the British trying to dominate the area and its trade turned bloody, with Benin's troops killing a British expeditionary force.

In retaliation, British troops captured the city and burned it to the ground, destroying its palaces and religious sites. They also carted off some 2,500 works of art, including bronze and ivory